

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

Last year at this time I wrote this column from Tours, France. This year I am at the Taos Regional. This tournament is going very well and has attracted a lot of top players from the West. It has been raining most of the week here as well as the rest of the state. The Taos tournament is chaired by Winifred Stebbins. She and her staff of volunteers from all over Northern New Mexico have worked very hard to put on their first regional. This is a very stressful job – especially if it is your first time.

The Albuquerque Unit helped Taos by furnishing all the necessary equipment and supplies needed, including tables, convention cards, all the other paper required, wastebaskets, boards, timer clocks, section markers; all-in-all, close to three tons of stuff. Since we have done this before it was a lot like sending our supplies to our own tournament but still a lot of work. We loaded a rental truck with all the equipment and the Taos Unit sent their volunteer drivers to take the truck to Taos. By the time you read this all of the equipment will be back in our storeroom by reversing the process. I especially want to thank the Albuquerque Unit volunteers who freely donated their time and backs - Scott Baker, Ed Gosnell, Jim McHollan, Alan Pope, Matt Waterman, and Rick Weigle. Good work! Thanks!

Our Unit has a commitment to promote bridge in New Mexico so the success of the Taos Regional is good for bridge in the state and creates good will among the same players that come to our tournaments. This is really a win-win situation.

Other big news this quarter – Joe Harris went by the 15,000 masterpoint milestone. Joe has been a fixture on the Albuquerque bridge scene for more than 40 years and is the top masterpoint holder in the unit. He has contributed to bridge in New Mexico in a variety of ways. He and Cindy have given group and individual lessons and have been extremely helpful to new players. Joe has always been first to volunteer to speak at our regional tournament speaker series. He authors one of the columns for our unit newsletter. He has worked hard to get to this point and deserves special recognition. Congratulations, Joe! Joe mentored me when I first started to play bridge about 40 years ago and we played together for several years as partners and many more years as teammates. But bridge takes its toll and below are pictures of Joe at 1000 masterpoints (1976) and at 15,000 masterpoints. You won't have any trouble guessing which is which.

On October 20th, the Unit membership meeting is being held

In This Issue

<i>President's Column.</i>	1
<i>Education Committee</i>	2
<i>Buddha Says</i>	3
<i>Goodwill Nominee</i>	4
<i>Manhattan Strudel</i>	4
<i>DCBC News</i>	5
<i>Rules of the Game</i>	5
<i>Fall Classes</i>	6
<i>Fall Sectional Schedule</i>	7
<i>Newer Players Page</i>	8
<i>Odds & Ends</i>	9
<i>Membership Changes</i>	10
<i>Calendar</i>	11





at DCBC at 1pm before the Unit game. The election for the unit board of directors will be held in November, so we will announce the slate of candidates at the meeting and accept any nominations from the floor that may be forthcoming. We need good candidates as well as support by unit members who volunteer their time in other ways. Please attend and support your favorite candidate.

-Bill Kass

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Course Offerings

"If you build it, they will come." Perhaps you are familiar with this famous line from the movie "Field of Dreams" starring Kevin Costner. The Duke City Bridge Club Education Committee is applying this strategy as we plan our curriculum offerings. We are offering an exciting palette of classes for everyone from beginners to pros to help our members increase their understanding of this great game of bridge.

Our 2013 summer bridge classes were well attended. Two 8-week courses were offered. Cliff Hill taught a course for advanced bridge players on "Match Point Thinking." In addition, Bob Zipp and Jan Evans team-taught the class, "Basic Conventions" for beginning students. On behalf of our teachers and all of the members of the Education Committee, thanks so much to each of you who supported our summer program.

Four classes will be offered this fall. Pat Plummer will teach a class, "Absolute Beginners" for those players who are new to the game. Her text is "Bidding in the 21st Century." She is also teaching the course for advanced beginners. "Play of the Hand" is the title of the class and the name of the book she will use for the course. Bob Zipp is offering a new two-semester course, "Competitive Bidding: Part 1. 25 Ways to Compete in the Bidding" by Barbara Seagram and Marc Smith is his selected text. The second part of his class will be offered during the spring of 2014. Finally, Cliff Hill returns to teach a class for advanced students on "Increasing Perception." For more details about these classes regarding course descriptions, text, dates and times, and class fees, please refer to the insert included in this Newsletter, the fliers posted in the Club, or to the ACBL Unit 374 website at www.abqbridge.com.

Like the film, Field of Dreams, we hope that if we "keep building it" you will "keep coming" to our classes. Thanks again for your support!

Trash Talk Update

Bravo! Thanks so very much to all members who throw away their trash during their bridge play, both before and after the game. You are terrific! There has been tremendous improvement. I even think I heard someone singing this song,

Sing to the tune: "You Are My Sunshine"

This Club is your Club, this Club is my Club,
Please do not litter, throw trash away,
This Club is your Club, this Club is my Club,
So please be kind, discard after play.

-Ellen Brabson, Chair, Education Committee

Buddha Says

Last time I introduced you to my friend Mark Itabashi. At the recent Nationals in Atlanta, Mark won the first event – the six session Life Masters pairs, one of the toughest events in bridge. Then the next two days he anchored the winning National Senior Swiss team. This guy really is good! Mark has decided to try to win the Barry Crane 500 race this year, by winning more master points in 2013 than anyone else. His chief competition will be Jeff Meckstroth and Chris Compton. I wish him luck.

On Sunday August 25, the Unit hosted a party to celebrate my passing the 15,000 masterpoint milepost. I was very humbled by the card, wine and gift card they gave me. Susan Zimmerman went overboard in producing a sumptuous goodie table. Paul Soloway once said that these parties are really just attendance awards, but I'd like to tell all how grateful I am. Thanks so much.

As I'm writing this column, there is a great consternation about the NSA tracking our phone calls and perhaps reading our e-mails. Everywhere you go "THEY" are watching you - listening to what you say and write. There are millions of cameras in the streets and shops and buildings where people live and work. They were responsible for catching the Boston Marathon bombers. (We even have cameras watching the parking lot at DCBC.) Cindy and I have been traveling a lot lately and every time I go through the airport checkpoints I get a little angry at the inconvenience and the incredible amount of wasted money and effort to make air travel 100% safe from terrorists. At least I'll soon be 75 and won't have to remove my shoes. There are bad people out there, but all this surveillance somehow makes me antsy.

These days when I play in a national event, the ACBL has cameras in the room. In the corner there are several people watching TV screens--monitoring and taping the play. I don't know if they are watching particular players, or just the room overall, or everyone. Again it makes me a little uneasy.

While I think it has been rare, we've all heard of cheating at bridge. There is a rhythm to the bidding

and play of a bridge hand. Really good players sense something is wrong with the rhythm or the results when someone is cheating. They will tell their friends, and then that person or pair will be scrutinized in the future, and eventually caught. In the world championships many years ago the British pair Reese and Shapiro was accused of using hand signals to tell partner how many hearts they held. After that in big events they put screens across the table so you couldn't see your partner. Later the Italians were accused of sending signals to each other using foot tapping. So they put screens across the bottom of the table. When cell phones became common, some players were accused of texting information about a hand or hands to a colleague. So the ACBL banned cell phones from the playing site. They have revised their policy now, and you don't have to check your cell phone or I-pad or Kindle at the door, but if they are ever seen or heard, there are large penalties. In the later stages of the major events, the contestants are even escorted to the rest rooms.

Almost everyone I ever play against is at least 50 years old, and you would think that cheating would be very rare among our age group. Even though bridge is just a game, there are many players who make a very good living playing with clients or on professional teams. From what I have gathered, the top twenty pros average about \$250,000 a year. At our regional this year, Mary Chilcote (a very good player) from Cleveland hired four of the top professionals – Mike Passell, Marc Jacobus, Geoff Hampson and Garey Hayden- to play on teams with her. It set her back about \$35,000 for the week. To me that seems obscene. But if you can afford it, and you love the game, and you want to score well, then why not play with the best players in the country? It seems to me that all that money puts a lot of pressure on the professional to not just score well, but to win. It may sometimes require very unusual tactics at the table, or maybe even to cheat a little. I really don't know, but from now on they will be digitally recorded and scrutinized, and it makes me a little uneasy.....

-Joe Harris

 GOODWILL NOMINEE FROM UNIT 374 FOR 2013

This year's Goodwill person is Felix Moore, nominated by Karin Kelsey, District 17 Representative for Unit 374.

Her nomination reads as follows:

"Felix has been an active member of Unit 374 for many years. She has volunteered her time and energy in many ways. At present, she is the club manager for the Duke City Bridge Club in Albuquerque. She is the tournament chairperson for our two yearly sectionals. She organizes and works at these events. She makes out the playing schedule, arranges for hospitality and the directors. Felix is also the editor for the daily bulletin at our regional and does this without compensation. She is currently teaching a youth bridge group this summer. She has also taught bridge lessons at a mid-school here in Albuquerque. She engineers a program to bring in expert bridge players to give weekend lessons to enhance our learning better bridge, on all levels in our club. Felix also makes the yearly schedule for the club and hires our local directors for club games. She is respected and popular with the players of Unit 374."

-Karin Kelsey

TRUMP CARDS AND STRUDEL AT THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE CLUB

"In a vanilla-hued office space high above Broadway in Midtown Manhattan, the players bang on tables, shush the chatter and stare one another down fiercely, all while cracking Neil Simonesque asides.

This is the Manhattan Bridge Club, the longest-running play on the West Side. 'I call it Bridge and a Show,' Lindsey Weinger, 35, said during a break in the game on a recent Tuesday afternoon. 'If you want to compete, play online. You come here for the show.'

The Manhattan Bridge Club, now in its 37th year (its 9th in its current location), follows the same adage. It advertises itself as the nation's fifth-largest bridge club, playing host to 1,500 players a week, some coming multiple times for tournaments and classes. This club has no members, but players pay \$25 for a three-hour weekday afternoon tournament, with lunch and brain food like Bugles, strudel, dried prunes and Oreos.

...Mr. Hyman, from East Flatbush, Brooklyn, drove a taxi for most of his life. Then he learned bridge. He became an instructor on the Queen Elizabeth 2, and now teaches at the club.

The weekday crowd skews toward the retired and the flexibly scheduled: psychiatrists, civil engineers, lawyers, rabbis, boogie boarders and Peace Corps veterans. Evening games tend to draw a younger set. On this Tuesday, though, many of the young players were off competing in Las Vegas, said Justin Blanchard, 24. Sotro voce, he confessed his mother was a champion player at the Honors Bridge Center across town.

Bridge clubs illustrate the great Manhattan divide. Jeff Bayone, a native of the Upper West Side who founded the club and now owns it with his wife, Barbara, said the beginners program sets his club apart. Other see it differently. 'The East Side one is all the fancy ladies with the face-lifts and the "whatever" bags in style,' one woman said, begging for anonymity so as not to appear catty. 'The West Side club, if you look around, there's a lot of grungy people – but a lot of them are scientists and authors. There are a lot of personalities here.....'

(Excerpted from the New York Times, July 4, 2013)

DUKE CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

A lot of effort has gone into organizing the redecoration of the club. The interior painting is a welcome change in the atmosphere. By the time you read this article, the carpeting will have been installed. The little bit of inconvenience of having the club closed in order to complete the projects will have been worthwhile. Cherri Berry is continuing to coordinate the completion of the interior look of the club. She has gone to a lot of effort and we thank her sincerely.

Again I will list the members of the board of directors, so you may pass on issues you would like to be discussed at the board meetings.

Jerry Himes, President
 Bob Kingsley, Vice President and Housekeeping
 Lynn Hinrichs, Secretary
 Jan Evans, Treasurer
 Barbara Duncan, TLC
 Ellen Brabson, Education/Outreach
 Charleen Bishop, Hospitality
 Katherine Tyner, Hospitality Supplies
 Patsy Waltemath, Games Materials/Office Supplies

In addition to the elected Board of Directors we have specially appointed committee chairs. These are:

Felix Moore, Games Coordinator
 Russ Edwards, Maintenance/Building Management
 Larry Bertholf, Conduct and Ethics
 Jerry Shinkle, Finance

The Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Any member of the club is welcome to come to the board meetings.

-Jerry Himes

RULES OF THE GAME

Changing a Bid Made by Mistake

Calls made using bidding cards are treated under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge in the same way as spoken calls... a call may be changed without penalty... only if: (a) the change is solely due to the player having taken out the wrong card in error; and (b) he changes - or attempts to change - it instantly after he REALIZES that he has removed the wrong card by mistake.

This means that you can change a bid when you have made a mechanical error in pulling the wrong card out of the bidding box but NOT when you decide a different bid would be preferable. Taking into account the shape and arrangement of the bidding cards in the box, directors will willingly accept that a card has been taken out in error if the intended card is adjacent to it. They are not going to accept that a pass card taken from the front of the box was taken out in error when you meant to bid 3 clubs. Another example: Your partner opens the bidding 1NT. With your ten points, four spades and four hearts, you decide Stayman is in order and you pull the 2C bid from your box. You hear partner announce, "Transfer," and to your horror, you realize you pulled out the 2D bid instead of 2C! Until your partner has made a call, you may correct an inadvertent bid, or mechanical error. Call the director immediately. He or she will ask what you intended, and will examine your hand. If your intended bid is obvious, your inadvertent bid does not match your hand, and the mistake was a slip of the fingers, not a slip of the mind, you will be allowed to correct your bid without penalty.

It is difficult to be precise about all possibilities. Insufficient bids can be especially difficult to judge, whereas if you take out the double card and at the same time proceed to make a jump bid, nobody will doubt that you really meant to take out the stop card.

-Larry Bertholf

DUKE CITY BRIDGE CLASSES, FALL, 2013

Absolute Beginners

Course: Absolute Beginners

Description: This class will cover the basic concepts of bridge, including hand evaluation, bidding (no trump, major and minor suit openings and responses), trick-taking and scoring.

Teacher: Pat Plummer

Text: ACBL Book Series: Bidding in the 21st Century

Dates and Times: Wednesday Evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Duke City Bridge Club

9-weeks starting on Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Class Fee: \$25.00 for book and class

\$15.00 for class only

Advanced Beginners

Course: Play of the Hand

Description: Topics will include making a plan, methods of developing tricks, how to eliminate losers, and managing the trump suit.

Teacher: Pat Plummer

Text: ACBL Book Series: Play of the Hand

Dates and Times: Saturday Mornings, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Duke City Bridge Club

9-weeks starting on Saturday, October 5, 2013

Class Fee: \$25.00 for book and class

\$15.00 for class only

Intermediate Class

Course: Competitive Bidding: Part 1

Description: This class will focus on the contested auction – when one side has opened the bidding and the other side interferes. Topics will include interfering by overcalling or doubling, and how to adjust your bidding when the opponents interfere.

Teacher: Bob Zipp

Text: 25 Ways to Compete in the Bidding by Barbara Seagram and Marc Smith

Dates and Times: Saturday Mornings, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Duke City Bridge Club

8-weeks starting on Saturday, October 5, 2013

Class Fee: \$25.00 for book and class

\$15.00 for class only

Advanced Class

Course: Increasing Perception

Description: This class will cover selected aspects of bridge including declarer play, analyzing hands, and auctions.

Teacher: Cliff Hill

Text: Class Handouts

Dates and Times: Tuesday Mornings, 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

Duke City Bridge Club

8-weeks starting on Tuesday, October 1, 2013**

Class Fee: \$25.00

**PLEASE NOTE NEW START DATE AND MEETING TIMES FOR CLIFF'S CLASS



ALBUQUERQUE

FALL SECTIONAL

November 1 - 3, 2013
Duke City Bridge Center
8616 Northeastern NE, Albuquerque NM
505-871-2877

Friday, November 1

Bracketed KO	Round 1	9.00am
Open Stratified Pairs	Single sessions	9.00am / 1.00pm
199er Stratified Pairs	Single sessions	9.00am / 1.00pm
Bracketed KO	Round 2	1.00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams	Single session	7.00pm
Bracketed KO	Final round	7.00pm

Saturday, November 2

Strati-flighted Pairs	Two sessions	10.00am / 2.30pm
A/AX play together, B/C play together		
Open Stratified Side Pairs	Single sessions	10.00am / 2.30pm
199er Stratified Pairs	Single sessions	10.00am / 2.30pm

Sunday, November 3

Strati-flighted Swiss Teams	Two sessions	10.00am & TBA
A/AX play together, B/C/D play together		

Separate 199er Swiss Teams if sufficient entries

Stratified events:	A: 2000+, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750
Strati-flighted events:	A: 3000+, A/X: 0-3000, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750 (Saturday Pairs)
199er Pairs:	A: 100-200, B: 50-100, C: 0-50

All events stratified by average masterpoint holdings. Mid-chart methods allowed in Flight A events and in the top flight of the KO.

Entry Fees: \$8.00 per player/session (\$2.00 extra/session for non/unpaid members), Juniors(U19): \$4.00 per player/session
 \$80.00 per team for Sunday Swiss (includes lunch between sessions)

Director-in-Charge:	Bill Michael	Sanction # 1311031
Chairperson:	Felicity Moore	f.moore@netscape.com 505-717-1483
Partnerships:	Cheryl Mitchell	cherylmit@comcast.net 505-828-4888

Complimentary food and beverages at all sessionsthe best in the west!

Non-smoking tournament with breaks. Information and results at www.abqbridge.com

Directions to DCBC: From I-40 take Wyoming Ave Exit north to Northeastern Blvd (approximately 1 mile) turn right (E) on Northeastern Blvd (traffic light), DCBC is second building on the right.

Newer Players Page

Bridge is a game that relies heavily on inference and logic. There are positive inferences we can make, such as:

When partner makes an opening lead of the King of a suit, we can infer that he or she has the Ace or Queen.

When the opponent opens a suit and at his next opportunity, rebids the suit, we can infer that he holds six cards in the suit.

When an opponent opens 1NT, we can infer that he holds a balanced hand, and probably does not have a five-card major.

Often, we base the information we get at the table on what is NOT bid or played. Take, for instance, these examples:

North 1 Club
East Pass
South 1 NT

We can infer that South does NOT have a 4-card major.

North 1NT
East Pass
South Pass

We can infer that South does NOT have more than 5 points.

When we lead a suit for the first time and partner follows with the deuce, we can infer that partner is NOT interested in our continuing the suit next time we're on lead.

When declarer leads a small card toward the AQxx on the board and plays the Queen, we can infer that declarer does NOT have the King.

Many beginners tend to ignore these inferences. Once four cards have been played to a trick, they move on to the next trick and forget about the facts they learned on the previous trick or tricks. To improve, players must STORE the inferences they've been able to make, and use them to increase the number of tricks they may be able to make during the balance of the hand. As a defender, after

four or five tricks, you should perhaps be saying to yourself:

1. All the trumps have been drawn, and declarer has two left.
2. Partner has a diamond honor, because she led the deuce on Trick 1.
3. Declarer is probably void in hearts because he dropped the King under the Ace the first time the suit was led.

With these facts in mind, you can proceed with a wider knowledge of what cards declarer and your partner hold and the distribution of the suits in the two hands you cannot see, and base your continuing defense on those facts.

Remember to concentrate on the facts you accumulate during the play of each hand, and you will find you are making more of your contracts, and setting more of the opponents' contracts.

-Susy Law

Odds & Ends

UPCOMING CHANGE IN COFFEE SERVICE

In an effort to be green by reducing the club's use of Styrofoam, we have already switched to paper plates. The cost of paper cups, though, is four times greater than that of Styrofoam, so the DCBC board has decided not to make that change. We are, however, going to have a three-month trial beginning in October offering free coffee and tea to all who bring and take home their own cups. Because we have neither the storage space for, nor the means of washing everyone's cups, all members, excluding directors, must take their cups home. For those who prefer to use the Styrofoam cups provided, the cost for coffee/tea will remain 50 cents. Please let us know how you feel about this program once the trial period begins.

*Katherine Tyner
Hospitality Co-chair*

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

Qualifying for this event concluded at the end of August. Qualifiers from Unit 374 are listed on our website and the District 17 finals will take place during the Tucson Regional on October 11th and 12th.

Should you decide to play in these finals, Unit 374 will reimburse your entry fees after your return from Tucson. You may only apply for reimbursement for one event; either the A, B or C finals.

The first three pairs in each division will be invited to participate in the National Finals which will take place at the Spring NABC in Dallas next year. Some financial assistance will be offered by District 17 to participants in Dallas.

For further information or to claim reimbursement please contact Felix Moore at 717-1483 or f.MOORE@NETSCAPE.COM.

-Felix Moore

Pat Durgin Open Studio/Gallery

2721 Dallas NE
(one block W of Penn between Manual & Candelaria)

Wine & Cheese

Oct 12th 4 to 9 pm & Oct 13th 1 to 6 pm
further info: 884-4743 - pat@patdurgin.com
WWW.Patdurgin.com

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 366-7965 to donate snacks or to volunteer hospitality services for any Sunday game.

P.S. All surprises welcome!!!

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Joseph Freedman
Jan G Hegem
Mary L Vaughan

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Mark Vitale

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Kathy G Dennis
Alan H Pope

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Robert E Kingsley
NEW NABC MASTERS

Lois H Bankhurst
Diane Brewer
James Willson

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Maris D Shepherd

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Kathleen D Church
Gary J Scrivner

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Kathleen D Church

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Paul D O'Brien

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS

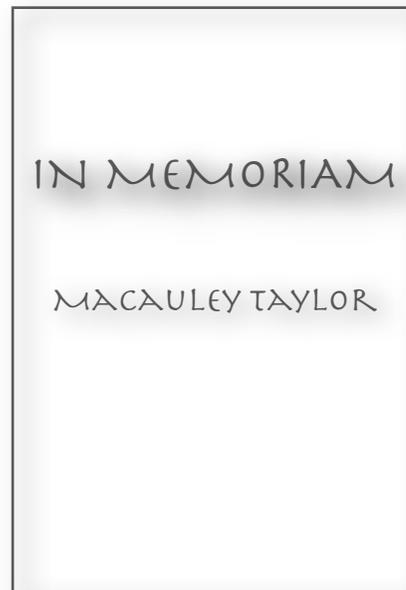
Jo Crumley

NEW MEMBERS

Judith S Darnell
Joseph Freedman
Janelle L White
Patricia Bracht
Roger Bracht

TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

Arjune Bose
Carolyn S Thompson





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

Return Service Requested

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

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

October

- 6th: Club Appreciation (Pairs)
- 13th: Pairs Championship
- 20th: Annual Meeting & Fundraising Individual
- 27th: Club Appreciation (Teams)

November

- 3rd: ABQ SECTIONAL
- 10th: Charity Pairs
- 17th: Pairs Championship
- 24th: GNT Qualifier (Teams)

December

- 1st: Pairs Championship
- 8th: Pairs Championship
- 15th: Holiday Party & Pairs Championship
- 22nd: Great Western STaC
- 29th: GNT Qualifier (Teams)

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

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