



THE CONSUMER

WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS
FIT TO PRINT



MAY 2018

WORDS FROM MBU PRESIDENT

Greetings MBU family,

We are off to an excellent start in our goal to increase our membership. The first step is publicizing the MBU, telling people we are here and describing how to gain access to what we have to offer. To meet this objective, our Publicity/Public Information Committee has done a great job creating the MBU website, www.mbuinc.org. The second step is to enable communication via the internet and social media, another goal of the Publicity/Public Information Committee. The third step is for people to engage with us face to face in new players classes or simply just by coming to a game and watching us play. But the prize, the reason for all this activity, is for people to join the MBU. Only by adding new members will we be able to sustain our clubs and our Unit.

During March of this year, Lois Francis, Christian Baxter, Janice McBean and I attended a Women's Expo held at the SQPA Beacon Community School @ JH58, 108-35 167th Street, Jamaica, NY. We interacted with approximately 50 people and 9 people expressed an interest in learning bridge. Annetta has followed up with them and we have their contact information. We need all of our members to be alert to these kinds of events so we can put our name and contact information out in the public arena so any interested people can get in touch with us.

The JetSetter Club is starting a New Player's Class and the MBU is sponsoring a class for new players beginning June 2, 2018 at the Bridge Home from 10 am to 12 pm. Spread the word and try to get at least one person you know to join one or both of these classes.

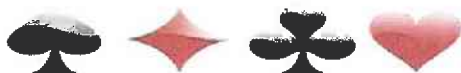
We have a number of excellent bridge instructors in our Unit and we should be taking advantage of the lessons they offer. Now that we have a dealing machine and hand records, I'm hoping we'll be able to incorporate a discussion of boards, contracts, leads and play of the hand in our lessons. In order to compete in special games and/or tournaments, we need instruction in all facets of the game. Even if you don't travel, duplicate bridge is a competitive game and an occasional win feels pretty good.

We congratulate all of our winners and participants at the recent Spring National and I hope all of you are planning on attending the Eastern Sectional in May. We need your support as much as we need new players. Your participation in special games and tournaments helps the MBU to thrive.

See you at the tables,



President, Metropolitan Bridge UNIT, Inc.



DIRECTORS' CORNER

SCORING BASICS

These are a few tips to help you read the recap sheet.

Top on a Board is one less than the total number of pairs playing in the whole game for a Howell movement or the number of pairs playing in one direction in a Mitchell movement.

1. **"Your Score"** reflects how many other pairs you scored better than. For example: If there are 8 pairs playing N/S and you have the top score, you receive a 7 on the board. You "beat" 7 other pairs.
2. If there are eight unique scores, the top pair would receive a 7, the next best score would receive a 6 and so on to the last score which would receive a 0. However, as is frequently the case, several pairs may all make the same contract and tie on a board. In this case the positions are averaged.

For example: On a given board played by 5 pairs, one pair bids 4 Hearts and make 5, two pair each make 4, one pair is set one trick and finally, one pair only bids 3 but makes 4. When the scores are put in descending numerical order they would look like this:

| Pair Number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Contract | Bid 4 Made 5 | Bid 4 Made 4 | Bid 4 Made 4 | Bid 3 Made 4 | Bid 4 Made 3 |
| Score | 650 | 620 | 620 | 170 | -100 |
| Place Score | 4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1 | 0 |

Note that pairs 2 and 3 tied with a score of 620. Their scoring positions (3 and 2) are averaged and they each receive a 2.5.

3. **Percentage** is determined by following formula:

$$\% = \left(\frac{\text{Your Score}}{\text{Top Board}} \right) \div \text{Number of Boards}$$



WORDS FROM THE 2018 SPRING NATIONAL

MBU members who did not attend the 2018 Spring National were missed
At the membership meeting the President addressed the following:

Penalties

We must pay a penalty because we did not meet the hotel contractual obligations for the 2018 Spring National. It was also noted that it is a highly probability that we will incur a penalty for the summer national in Austin.

ABA web site

Members must register to gain access to the Web site. If anyone need help registering the ABA office will assist.

20 life members purchased Card tables.

Three Recommendation were presented to the membership:

1. Suspend the Spring Tournament. (No action was taken by the board).
2. Eliminate Life Membership. The board voted to send Life Membership back to the Section. After a spirited discussion, life membership will return to the board for further discussion.
3. Merit Award will remain the same.

National Tournament Authority, Andrew Echols, gave a breakdown of data for the Spring National for the years 2007 - 2015. The top three years were:

Las Vegas 2007 - 1266.50

Cleveland 2008 1241.50

Morristown 2011 1214.

As of April 2018, the ABA have 2,242 members.

Hope all MBU members make plans to meet in Austin **ABA need you.**



TRIPLE A RAFFLES

It is time again to turn our eyes toward the Major MBU tournament of the year, and our Triple A Raffles. Again, this year we are offering a bonus in our raffle sales. Each club will receive 5 books for each of their reported members. For each 4 books sold at \$5.00 each, the club has the option of giving away 1 book for free. Again, this year the number of cash prizes that we are awarding in the raffle is six so there is a greater chance that a person or club can win a cash prize. With the books that will go to each club, there will be a

chart that will have the projected goal for the club, with spaces to record the raffle book sales. It is possible for the club to exceed its projected goal by selling more than 5 books a member, or by requesting and selling additional books. The club that sells the greatest number of raffles, will get a preferred table at the award celebration.

I consider all club presidents as member of my committee since they will receive and distribute all books, keep track of their club's ticket sales, and returning to me their sold ticket stubs.

We will have the books ready to be disseminated early in May 2018 and they must be returned to me folded and ready to win by November 26th, 2018. If that is done, we will have a preliminary financial report before the Triple A game in December.

The Triple A committee is counting on each club member to meet their modest goal of selling just 4 books per member, and that the clubs will buy any of the books that the members are unable to sell. With each club selling just their initial books, we will more than meet our last year's total of raffles sold. Last year, a club won one of the prizes!!

After all books have been sent to our twelve clubs, there will still be 245 books available for sale. If there are other clubs, or units outside of the MBU that you believe would want raffle books, please help to get them out to them as soon as possible.

With the help of all our clubs, we will have the best triple A raffle ever.

Raffle Chairperson, Marcia Demos



SICKLE CELL BENEFIT GAME

Dear Bridge Family

The MBU is sponsoring a benefit Sickle Cell game on Saturday, September 15 at the Bridge Home. The game will be a double session.

To keep expenses low and our contribution high, I am asking each Club in our unit to donate lunch for fifty people. The menu is ham, chicken, (fried and baked), potato salad, three bean salad, macaroni salad, cheese, crackers, potato chips, fresh fruit, cake, cookies, drinks (soda, water), green salad and dressing.

Please select one or more of the above items and let me know your club's selection(s) or your own individual items by June 15 at 914-576-1142.

Thanking you in advance

Jean DeVeaux



2018 MBU SANCTION GAMES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| May 4, Brooklynites HH Scholarship May 7, Triangle Special Club Ben & Headquarters Benefit May 8, Triangle MRR Team "B" Game May 9, Leisure "C" Game May 14 DBCM V Headquarters Benefit May 21- 23 Eastern Section | June 6 CO-OP BAM Team C Game June 7 Astro C Game June 11 Triangle ABA Scholarship June 14, Twilight C Game June 15 Brooklynites 2 Session MRR June 19 Westbury 2 Session B O/P June 21 Longest Day C Games June 27 Cosmo under 600 | July 9 Triangle C Game July 16 DBCM V C Game July 18, Sp. Club Benefit OP July 26-Aug. 4 ABA Summer National | |
|---|---|---|--|



WINNERS CIRCLE



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>March 12, HH Scholarship FLIGHT A 1st Patricia Thomas – Mayer Wiesen 2nd Allen Morton – Errol Grant FLIGHT B Valerie Brooks – Christian</p> <p>March 17, Bridge Home Benefit Section A Flight A 1st Julius Fields – George Hudson 2nd Parvez Mehta – Errol Grant+-</p> <p>Flight B 1st Jean DeVeaux – Natalie McFarlane 2nd Valerie Brooks – Christian Baxter</p> <p>Flight C 1st Valerie Brooks – Christian Baxter 2nd Lois Francis – Richard Kotkin</p> <p>March 28, CO-OP ABA Benefit Flight A 1st Julius Fields – George Hudson 2nd Parvez Mehta – Errol Grant Flight B 1st Susie Polite – Estelle Richmond 2nd Alan Rosen – Herman Francis</p> | <p>March 17, Bridge Home Benefit Section B Flight A 1st Julia Rhinehart – Beverly Session 2nd Joan Handy – Diane Oliver Flight B 1st Joan Handy – Diane Oliver 2nd Barbara Wingate Lois Wright</p> <p>March 19 DBCM V HH Scholar Flight A 1st Gloria Hobbs – Alfred Knight 2nd Julius Fields – George Hudson</p> <p>Flight B John Demos – Marcia Demos 2nd William Woods – Loraine Hinds</p> <p>Flight C 1st Rowena Joseph – Jones Anderson 2nd Rita Thompson – Beverly Kelly</p> <p>April 9, Bayview “C” Game Sect. A Flight A 1st Lynda Straker – Janice Mc Bean 2nd Errol Grant – Annetta Flight B 1st Minnie Hagans – Sylvia Simmons 2nd Valerie Brooks – Christian Baxtere</p> | <p>March 20, Jetsetters HH Scholarship Flight A 1st Lynda Straker - Janice McBean 2nd Errol Grant – Parvez Mehta Flight B 1st Paul Watford – Yvonne Ebea 2nd Martha Hewitt – Grace Parris</p> <p>Flight C 1st Paul Watford – Yvonne Ebea 2nd Christian Baxter – Valerie Brooks</p> <p>March 24, Springfield “C” Game Flight A 1st Christian Baxter – Valerie Brooks 2nd Allen Morton – Cheryl Jones Flight B 1st Christian Baxter – Valerie Brooks 2nd June Robinson – Eliza Brann</p> |
|--|---|---|



Happy Birthday

May

June

| | |
|---|---|
| Brooklynites DBC Jacqueline Sterling | LEISURE (April Belated Birthdays) Marcella Dawkins – Larry Gutman – Tony Donovan |
| CO-OP City DBC Syiva Butler – Alicia Mapp – Genesis Washington | |
| Bayview DBC Patricia Thomas - | Bayview DBC Joyce Woods – Christian Baxter |
| Cosmo DBC Williams Russell (Belated Birthday March 22 nd) | Cosmo DBC Cheryll Jones – Ruth Shuler – George Hudson |
| Mt. Vernon DBC Jean Keitz's – Jean Deveaux | Mt. Vernon DBC Louise Shaw |
| Springfield DBC Janice McBean – Sharon Fox | Springfield DBC June Robinson – Diana Green |
| Twilight DBC Shirley Gross | Twilight DBC Raye Liverpool |
| | Triangle Charlotte Cottman- Betty Donnerson – Annie Nelson |

HURRY BACK TO THE BRIDGE TABLE

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Twilight DBC Oliver Clark, Shirley Gross, | Westbury DBC Wilma Alexander, Alverna Lewis- | Bayview DBC Rudy Cummings – Lenora Gates | |
|--|---|---|--|





MBU lost two members in April. Felicia Ash eDBCMV, Beloved Nonagenarian and Jetsetters Roberta Wyche. Who will be missed. Rest in Peace.



Hello MBUers

Thanks you the positive feed back regarding mondernization of the Consumer. Annetta and Dolores keep raising the bar higher. In this issue Annetta has Bridge Trivia and Dolores has Proverbs Nuggets of Widsom. Go Ladies

Thank you reporters, Lorei Blackman, Valerie Brooks, Jessie Palmer, Lois Francis, Wilma Alexander, Eliza Brann, Therese Hamilton Jean DeVeaux, Bernice Williams, Yvonne Allen for submitting items

Check out CLC NEWS shout out to ABA. The shout out is behind Rita Thompson Bio. Rita is the Editor of the CLC News magazine.

Information for the July Consumer will be due July 6, 2018.

Don't forget you now have 3 editors:

Gladys Smith gms3917@aol.com

Annettea Wallace Aniteena@aol.com

Dolores Watson WTDIrs@aol.com

ABA EASTERN SECTION SPRING CLASSIC TOURNAMENT



Resorts Casino Hotel
1133 Boardwalk
Atlantic City, N.J. 08401
1-888-797-7700, Group Code VABA18

May 21-May 24, 2018

SCHEDULE:

| | | |
|--------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| MAY 21 | 2:00PM | ABA HQ Benefit** |
| | 7:00PM | KO (1 st Round) |
| | 7:00PM | Side Game** |
| MAY 22 | 9:00AM | KO (2 nd Round) |
| | 9:00AM | Side Game** |
| | 2:00PM | KO (Final) |
| | 2:00PM | Side Game** |
| | 7:00PM | Open Pairs** |
| MAY 23 | 11:00AM | ES Membership Meeting |
| | 2:00PM | Open Pairs (1 st Session) |
| | 2:00PM | Side Game** |
| | 7:00PM | Open Pairs (2 nd Session) |
| | 7:00PM | Side Game** |
| MAY 24 | 9:00AM | MRR (1 st Session) |
| | 9:00AM | Side Game** |
| | TBA | MRR (2 nd Session) |

**New Players Section Available

CLARA HARGRAVE, Eastern Section VP

MARY DUNCAN, Director-in-Charge

JOHN DEMOS, Tournament Chair

BRIDGE TRIVIA

1. What is a "Moysian fit"?
2. Which is more likely 4 cards breaking 2-2 or 6 cards breaking 4-2?
3. Which is the odd one out: Squeeze, Negative, Dummy, Lead, or Raise?
4. What is usually called the fifth Ace?
5. What are the only three successful contracts that can score 1000 points exactly?
6. Which is worth more, non-vulnerable: 5H doubled and made or 2hearts doubled and made with 2 overtricks?
7. Which are the two most likely hand patterns?

Answers

1. A 4 = 3 fit.
2. Six cards breaking 4-2; a 4-2 break 48.4 %, a 2-2 break 40.7%
3. Lead the others may be preceded by "double".
4. The king of trumps.
5. 3NT, 5Clubs, and 5Diamonds redoubled and vulnerable.
6. 2Hearts doubled +2 = 670 (5 Hearts doubled = 650)
7. 4-4-3-2 which occurs in 21.6 % of hand and 5-3-3-2 occurring in 15.5 % of hands



PROVERBS NUGGETS OF WISDOM

*I AM BLESSED AND HIGHLY FAVORED

MAN PROPOSES, GOD DESPOSES

*HE THAT WOULD BE A LEADER MUST BE A BRIDGE

IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR A MAN TO KNOW HOW TO RIDE, HE MUST KNOW
HOW TO FALL

*SELF PRAISE IS NO RECOMMENDATION

NO ONE SHOULD BOAST UNTIL HE HAS FINISHED

*THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES START WITH A SINGLE STEP

HE WHO GOES THE WRONG ROAD MUST GO THE JOURNEY TWICE OVER

*DON'T TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY, IT IS NOT PERMANENT

EVERY TIME ONE LAUGHS, A NAIL IS REMOVED FROM THE COFFIN

*NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

WHEN ONE IS HELPING ANOTHER, BOTH GAIN IN STRENGTH

*COFFEE AND LOVE TASTE BEST HOT

ON THE WAY TO ONE'S BELOVED, THERE ARE NO HILLS

*HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

EYES THAT SEE DO NOT GROW OLD

*PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH

SAVE MONEY AND MONEY WILL SAVE YOU

*PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME

TOMORROW IS OFTEN THE BUSIEST DAY OF THE WEEK

*THE ONLY DISABILITY IN LIFE IS A BAD ATTITUDE

THE WISE MAN NEVER SAYS, 'I DID NOT THINK'

*WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY

WHEN THE MUSIC CHANGES, SO DOES THE DANCE

SOMETIMES WE ARE THE STUDENTS. SOMETIMES WE ARE MASTERS. AND SOMETIMES
WE ARE THE LESSON

I BEG THAT YOU READ THIS NEWSLETTER ENTIRELY AND PASS IT ON SO THAT IT REACHES A MAXIMUM OF OUR MEMBERS.

IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

Bridge players, most of you who know me know that I have no problem with transparency and that I will do my best to keep you informed as to the state of the American Bridge Association. In my opinion, **WITHOUT YOUR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE, THE AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION IS DOOMED!!!** The longevity of the association has a very short shelf life if we don't come together to save it. Working together as a team we can reverse the drama that has befallen us. Let me explain.

We have just completed our Spring National in Dearborn, MI and we have experienced a tremendous loss as we entered an attrition situation with the hotel. This came about, for whatever reason, but primarily because many of our members cancelled their reservations or left early due to inconveniences at the hotel. Two weeks prior to the tournament we were only 171 room nights short of our minimum and on day one of the tournament we were 438 room nights short and lost more during the week. I must admit that though we adjust our prospectus and lowered our room obligation more than a year ago, we still over estimated our attendance at this event. As our membership is still in decline and members are aging and not traveling as much as they once did, we are having to take critical steps to reduce our spending, improve tournament operations and encourage tournament participation. As a result of the losses from the Spring Tournament your Board is negotiating to minimize the \$43,000 loss to the hotel.

Our Summer National is in Austin, TX and once again we have over estimated our participation. Austin is considered the LIVE MUSIC capital of the world and one of the fastest growing cities in America. The host group is working very hard to provide an enjoyable event for you and the NTA and NTC have adjusted tournament operations to encourage your participation. I realize that we generally don't make our reservations early, but as of April 25, we were more than 1000 room nights short of our minimum. Due to the Dearborn shortfall, we are already working with the Austin hotel but need your help to prevent another devastating loss. It was an oversight also that this event overlaps with a major ACBL Tournament in Atlanta. It is also rumored that some of our top players will not be attending this event and this along with operational adjustments may be a perfect opportunity for you to earn points.

OPPORTUNITIES GET BETTER

Yes, bridge players, the opportunity for you to compete closer to your own field has become a reality. Many of you have complained about being forced to play in a higher field because of the numbers required to generate enough teams for Second Chance. There is usually a great disparity between teams one and sixteen in the major knockouts. There were many complaints when we had to combine flights A & B or C & D to make the second change event. Well, we have heard your pleas to make fields more equitable and we have. The

opportunities will be there for you to be a knockout winner, but you must be in the event to win it.

Beginning with the Summer National in Austin, the Victor Daley and the CG Fredd Knockout events will no longer have a mandatory second chance. These events will follow the same as the Morning Knock and generate a Victory Daley II or a CG Fredd II. This will allow us to conduct the major events with less than 16 teams as teams will no longer be forced into the continuance. Teams will now sign up for the second event which will be re-flighted to accommodate the teams that were knocked out in the first event. A side game will also be available for those not desiring to enter the second knockout event. There will also be a TWO SESSION PAIR GAME scheduled against the third round of the primary event and second round of the II event.

To better seed the fields, directors will use the average of the top 4 players on the team and where that average is 5,000 or above the team would qualify to play in A flight. However, if the numbers have been resolved for A flight (minimum of 9 teams) or there is greater disparity between the last team in A and the team being considered, another flight will be generated. This process will continue until all teams are assigned.

I extend a most heartfelt thanks to our National Tournament Authority and National Tournament Committee for making these changes to our tournament operations. You, our members, have responded to every request I have made of you on behalf of the ABA. Now I am pleading for your overwhelming support to save us from another major upset to the longevity of the AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION. Step up to the plate and take advantage of the opportunity changes while enjoying Austin.

With much concern,

Hank

Your president,

Henry "Hank" Irwin, Jr.



George E. Hudson

Candidate for Eastern Section Vice-president

Together we can build a Better Eastern Section

Dear MBU Members,

The Eastern Section will vote May 23rd in Atlantic City to elect a vice-president to represent us on the Board of Directors of the American Bridge Association. This representative will carry the message and needs of our section to the ABA board as well as recruiting new members to the Eastern Section and increasing participation at our sectional tournament and local games. I believe I have not only the experience but the strategy to accomplish what's needed for the Eastern Section. My experience includes:

- Tournament chair at all levels of the ABA
- Unit President and Treasurer for the Community Bridge Home
- Eastern Section vice-president, 2008-2010
- General Chairman of two (2) Nationals, 1983 in New York and 1987 in St Louis
- President of the American Bridge Association, 2011-2015
- National Tournament Committee Chair and a member for 20 years
- Certified ABA Bridge Teacher for over ten years and currently teaching at the Bridge Home and the United Federation of Teachers in New York city

Vote George E Hudson for Eastern Section vice-president.

My sincere thanks,

George E. Hudson

Strategy

"Education"

**Promote beginning
bridge lessons in all
Units...**

"Environment"

**Continue working with
the Bridge Home so
MBU members can be
proud to have a place
to host their games...**

**Seek out new venues
for our tournaments
when possible...**

"Equity"

**Continue to encourage
games where players
compete with their
peers...**

"Energy"

**Involve new players &
bring ABA National
Tournaments back to
the Eastern Section...**

One opponent says: "I have been in the bridge world for over 20 years and served in various positions in the Eastern Section."

The other opponent says: "The Eastern Section went down from #1 section to #3, and I am a past Eastern Section VP and ABA President."

So, we can agree, they both know how to play good bridge, and you should choose them when you need a partner, but are you looking for a partner? **NO!!!**

THE EASTERN SECTION IS LOOKING for A LEADER

Vote Lois Francis for Vice-President



Who is Lois Francis?

- Served the people of the City of New York for 45 years before retirement.
- On streets of Spanish Harlem cared/provided for families on public assistance.
- Represented parents and children in need of support in Manhattan Family Court.
- Formed the Committee for Union Effectiveness (CUE) to fight union corruption.
- As a manager, she helped homeless shelters families find decent housing.
- As Admin. Director of Protective Services for Adults, she served elderly and disabled.
- Retired in 1995 from the Human Resources Administration after 29 years of service.
- Taught and guided the youth in NYC public schools for another 16 years.
- Ended two careers in 2011 and went to take bridge lessons.

****GETTING THE JOB DONE IN ONLY 6 YEARS****

- In 2012 Lois joined the American Bridge Association.
- Traveled across the country playing even when she didn't know how to.
- Four years later, reached the Diamond level.
- To pass it on to others, she became a certified bridge teacher.
- Took on Youth Bridge Coordinator, a joint ACBL/ABA project.
- Got over 300 youth in schools and churches involved in learning bridge.
- Secured sponsors for 50 to join the ABA as youth members.
- In 2015 formed a chartered ABA bridge club, Brooklynites Duplicate Bridge Club.
- In 2016 appointed Teacher Certification Chair--over 50 players certified as teachers.
- Currently teaching nearly 40 new students weekly to build up the Eastern Section.

Dear Section Members:

I believe voters deserve to know the qualifications candidates "bring to the table" even when a candidate is uncontested as I currently am. Like many of you, I began playing bridge after retiring. I'm a member in good standing of the Duplicate Bridge Club of Mt. Vernon and I frequently play at the Co-op City Duplicate Bridge Club.

Before retirement, I had a 25+ year career as a legal management professional who directed the financial and administrative activities of private law firms. During this time, I was also an active member of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA). Here's a partial list of my achievements both before and after joining the American Bridge Association:

- President, ALA New York City Chapter
- Communications Officer, ALA Region 1
- Editor, *Region 1 Reporter*
- Contributing Editor, *Best Practices in Legal Management: A Comprehensive Guide*, New York State Bar Association
- Articles contributor, *New York New York*, ALA publication
- Bronx Community College Paralegal Studies Program Advisory Board
- Treasurer, *CLC News* editor and Facebook page manager for Calvary Lutheran Church
- Webmaster, Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc. (MBU) website (www.mbuinc.org)
- MBU Public Relations Committee and Facebook page management team
- American Bridge Association certified bridge teacher

Please consider these credentials when you cast your ballot. It would be my pleasure to serve you as ABA Eastern Section Secretary.

Best regards,

Rita Thompson





Visiting the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Parishioners joined Pastor Fredi at an ecumenical celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on November 1, 2017. The event was held at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine where more than 1,200 people attended including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, AME-Zion, Episcopal, Methodist, Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, Moravian, Presbyterian, African Methodist Episcopal, and Mennonite church leaders. A festive reception took place immediately following the service.



Parvez Mehta, Kathy Trezza, Rita Thompson and Judy Stefano at the park adjacent to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Holiday Brunch in the Parish Hall

On December 17, over 50 people joined us at our holiday brunch, including our special guests (the volunteers and donors who contributed to the success of our Fall Tag Sale). Everyone feasted on a delicious assortment of home-made dishes and the dessert table was described as "amazing." Cara Hernandez and sisters, Rebecca and Rachel Dhala, sang several traditional holiday songs and Rebecca, an accomplished musician, played two compositions on the cello. The event concluded with a prize drawing where six lucky people received an early Christmas gift.



Barbara Milton, Kathy Trezza, Marta Wright, Nilda Torres, Antoinette DiMonte, Pastor Fredi, Hedy Egan, Rita Thompson and Charles Thompson pause for a photo during "clean up time" following the festivities.

In the "Footsteps" of Martin Luther

We're packing our bags for a European tour. In June, we are concluding our 500th Anniversary of the Reformation commemorative activities with a visit to Germany. We will walk in the "footsteps" of Martin Luther, visiting many of the sites important in Luther's life. From Berlin to Munich, we are traveling with our very own tour guide, staying at first-class hotels, taking a scenic cruise on the Rhine River and much more.

We look forward to sharing details of our trip with you in the next edition of CLC News. Stay tuned.

AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

EASTERN SECTION

Invites experienced players and beginners to join us at a bridge club in the New York metropolitan area. Lessons, games and tournaments available for players at all levels.

Bronx ♠ Brooklyn ♥ Manhattan ♣ Queens
Mt. Vernon ♦ Long Island

For information, visit www.mbuinc.org



**IF YOU WANT
CHANGE
VOTE
GLADYS SMITH
FOR
EASTERN SECTION
VICE PRESIDENT**

I have been a member of The American Bridge Association for over twenty years. During that twenty years I have worked on committees at the National level and the Eastern Section. I currently serve as Treasurer of the Eastern Section. As a collective, the Eastern Section has a history of working together for the good of all clubs. Two examples of combined collaboration were the purchase of a dealer machine and the 3-day seminar for directors.

Together, we must bring our attention to the vitality of the Eastern Section. There has been a steep decline in membership and it is crucial that we focus on bringing in new members to ensure the future of the Eastern Section and to keep the ABA vibrant.

As your Vice President, and with your support, I will work to keep the Eastern Section a vital working component of the ABA.