



# THE CONSUMER

## WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

[www.mbuinc.org](http://www.mbuinc.org)

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

April 2020



## President's Message

By Lynda J. Straker

This message comes to you during an unprecedented and uncharted episode in our MBU experience. The threat to our health and safety created by the COVID-19 pandemic has set off alarms in all facets of our social existence. Social distancing has created new norms in our way of life and many individuals have adopted a personal response to guide their daily activities. These responses range from staying at home as much as possible to continuing life as usual with adherence to the cautionary health practices that will limit exposure to the virus.

Many of our clubs have decided to suspend weekly and special games until the status of COVID-19 is understood and mitigated. A minority of clubs have decided to continue weekly club games.

As of this writing, in the absence of a restrictive policy issued by a local government, I feel comfortable advising our members to make decisions about participation in bridge games based on your individual comfort level. As the number of people affected by COVID-19 rises, as it will as more and more people are tested, I am certain our response will be appropriate to the situation.

The Community Bridge Home relies on income from weekly club games. I would encourage those clubs who normally meet at the Bridge Home, to continue to pay the weekly rent to ensure that when this virus is finally under control, the Bridge Home will still be available for your games.

Hold fast to the memories of pleasantries exchanged at the bridge tables and know that those days will return. Hopefully, we will be able to participate in the Eastern Sectional scheduled for May 22 through May 25, 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Parsippany, New Jersey. The rate, not including tax and fees, is \$94 per night. The telephone number is 1.973.263.2000 and use the code ESB to register at the \$94 rate.

Our next general membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 10:00 am. Please plan to attend. It is the MBU's turn to designate the Eastern Section Merit Award winner. Clubs will be asked to make nominations and the winner will be elected at our April meeting.

I hope this message finds everyone well and coping with the unrest that exists around the world right now. History has documented other widespread illnesses that have eventually been conquered and, in time, we hope that COVID-19 will be conquered as well.

Stay safe. Wash your hands. Don't touch your face. Cough into your hand or elbow. Don't go out if you're sick. If you're isolated at home, play bridge on BBO, make frequent calls to your friends and family, and enjoy every day you wake up!



*Our bridge family deserves some humor during these trying times.*

*The Editors*



## Jet Setter DBC

By Yvonne Ebea

Congratulations to Jet Setter newly elected Executive Officers.

President: Beverly Session-Kelly  
Vice President: Victoria Williams  
Treasurer: Fannie Smiths  
Secretary: Yvonne Ebea

They were installed on March 3, 2020 by MBU President Lynda Straker. We wish them much success during their tenure.



**Yvonne Ebea, Fannie Smiths, Lynda Straker, Victoria Williams and Beverly Session-Kelly (seated)**

Jet Setters welcome our newest member Tom Daly. Kudos to Tom who is responsible for making the delicious freshly brewed coffee at club games. He also includes some sweet snacks (smile).

We wish a happy birthday to Grace Parris on May 14.

Victoria Williams and Yvonne Ebea completed the club director course on November 13, 2019.

Please save these dates:

May 5, 2020 - our Anniversary and "C" Game  
June 29, 2020 - "B" Game with Bayview

Remember, Jet Setters will continue to have beginning classes and supervised bridge games starting at 10:30 am every Tuesday. Hope to see you there.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Leisure DBC

By Yvonne Allen

Hello and greetings to the duplicate bridge community of the MBU.

The Leisure DBC is thankful to all the bridge players who supported us during our weekly club games as well as the sanctioned games played at the J.P. Kennedy Center.

Unfortunately, Leisure is in an unwanted state of hibernation. We have suspended all Wednesday club games and sanctioned games until further notice due to renovations at the Kennedy Center. Leisure will resume bridge play upon completion of the interior renovations when the Gold Room is once again available to the club. Possibly late March or April 2020.

The Leisure DBC sends sincere thanks to everyone who attended and supported the celebration of the life of Calvin Bass on February 4, 2020. Calvin was a great guy and he will be missed. May he RIP.

## Cosmo's Corner

By Steven Bond

As you read this, the first of the ten classes in the "Play of the Hand" series, with Willie Fuchs as instructor, will have taken place on March 25. They will continue most Wednesdays at 10 am SHARP into June; final schedule pending.

On June 17, the 1st George Hudson Memorial Under 600 Game will be held. This is a great opportunity for newer players to earn points without competing against the top players, as they will have their own section.

Looking ahead, on July 15 Cosmo will hold a benefit game for the Community Bridge Home, starting at 10 am, after a continental breakfast, and will be followed by lunch and an afternoon "C" game.

We extend belated birthday wishes to Barbara Wingate (February), and Therese Hamilton and William Russell (March).

### DON'T MISS IMPORTANT NOTICES

The Metropolitan Bridge Unit sends notices to members by email. If you are not receiving notices, provide your current email address to the MBU at [metropolitanbridgeunit@aol.com](mailto:metropolitanbridgeunit@aol.com).



## Bayview Breeze

By Valerie Brooks

Unfortunately, Bayview has discontinued our club games for the time being due to the coronavirus pandemic that is currently sweeping the world. We miss you all and look forward to re-opening as soon as we feel it is safe.

Also, our "C" Game scheduled for Monday, April 13 has been cancelled. We will have a club game on that day if possible.

Be safe everyone!

## Brooklynites DBC

By Jane Atlas

Happy Spring!

Thanks to all who supported us and attended our games, especially our January 10 anniversary game.

Brooklynites were represented at the Cherry Blossom Tournament in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Birthday wishes to Kathleen Marshall (April), Joanne Swain and Regine Latortue (May) and Diane Gatewood (June).

Our club offers free bridge classes every Wednesday. Tell your friends and relatives.

Please join us at our 11 am Friday morning games at 625 Quincy Street, Brooklyn.

ALERT: Our Herman Huff Scholarship Game has been moved up from May 1 to April 17 in keeping with the availability of the venue.

## Twilight DBC

By Jesse Palmer

Where did this year go? We are now approaching St. Patrick's Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Palm Sunday and Resurrection Day (Easter). Please enjoy all these important religious celebrations.

During April, Morris Johnson will celebrate his birthday; in May, Shirley Gross and in June, Raye Liverpool.

All our prayers go out to the members of the MBU that are ill or lost a loved one.

Once again, we extend an invitation to play with us on Thursday afternoons at 1639 St. Marks Place, Brooklyn New York. Lunch is served at noon and the game will begin at 1 pm sharp.

## Mount Vernon Nonagenarians

By Rita Thompson

We are proud to have six members who have reached 90+ years, including **Beryl Battle, Dr. Gloria Hobbs, Alfred Knight, Naomi Jones, Clarence Schmidt** and **Louise Shaw**.



Please join us at our August 3 "C" game where we will honor these important members of our bridge club. Refreshments at 5 pm. Game at 6 pm. The Armory, 144 North 5th Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York.

## Co-op City DBC

By Lori Blackman

We have managed to get through this winter without a lot of snow and bad weather. Spring is right around the corner and the chilly weather is almost a memory.

Thank you one and all for attending our Herman Huff Benefit Game. Your attendance was greatly appreciated and contributed to the game being an over whelming success. The members of the Co-op City Club would like to thank all bridge players that have attended games here in the Bronx. Thanks for making the trip.

Please take a moment to keep our warmly loved Clarence Polite in your prayers as he undergoes surgery. Clarence and Susie have provided some delicious cakes for our games so we want to thank them for their kindness.

Now let us congratulate one of our newest directors, Valerie Smith. Good Luck!

Again, thanks for playing with us, and hope to see you soon.







## Triangle DBC

By Bernice Williams

Greetings, fellow bridge players.

As the world is in a quandary with the coronavirus pandemic and venues closing, we may have to resort to house games (smile). Most of us are not "spring chickens" and opt not to participate, so turnout has been sparse.

The Grade A Cherry Blossom Tournament in Silver Springs, Maryland had Triangle representation including Alice Butler, Minnie Goka, Alan Morton and yours truly from Harlem. The location was amicable with nearby shops and numerous places to eat within walking distance.

We have a late birthday shout out to our point coordinator Gregory Morrison as his day was March 7. In April, we have Mae Ott, Tony Donovan who is now residing in the Carolinas, and Marzella Dawkins who we hope to see soon. Betty Donnerson and Ida Minault celebrate birthdays in May and in June Grand Master Julius Fields and Annie Nelson.

Our president, Gwendolyn Leverett, is the 2019 ABA Sr. Life Master player of the year receiving the William Friend award.

Our Financial Secretary Dorothy Haime is home after a brief hospital and rehab stay. We wish Dorothy a speedy recovery and return to bridge.

With the seriousness of the coronavirus pandemic, Triangle invites all online players to join in for team play. You can contact President Gwen Leverett at [trianglebridgeclubmbu@gmail.com](mailto:trianglebridgeclubmbu@gmail.com).

Stay safe everyone and hope we will soon be finished with this scary situation and back to the bridge table and our normal lives.

To all bridge players have a great day, a great game and a great Spring!

## Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

We hope all will listen to the current precautions during this health crisis and get more rest, wash your hands with soap and water when available, stay hydrated and minimize stress as much as possible. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the bridge table upon further notice.

Birthday greetings go out to Lavaris Marks and Moses Smallwood in April. During May, our birthday celebrants are Janice McBean and Sharon Fox. We hope all will enjoy a blessed year.

## Tips to Save Time During the Game

Here are a few easy things you can do to help save time during a game,

- ♦ If you are on opening lead, make the opening lead promptly. **DO NOT FILL IN YOUR CONVENTION CARD FIRST.** If you do, you are keeping three players waiting, including the declarer who is anxious to see the dummy. The time to write on your convention card is when dummy is being put on the table and declarer is making her plan.
- ♦ If you are playing a Howell movement, take the time **BEFORE** round 1 begins to see where you are going to move to next. When you know this, make a note of who is sitting there; you will be following this pair around the room. Wherever they are sitting is where you are going for the next round. It is much easier and quicker to follow a pair around the room than to check the guide card every round.



## MBU Game Scores

Review and download game scores and recap sheets at [www.mbuinc.org](http://www.mbuinc.org)



## The Director's Corner

By Annetta Wallace

### SCORING TEAM EVENTS

Team events are usually either **Swiss**, **Knockouts**, or **Board-A-Match**.

The scoring method for the Swiss games and Knockouts is International Match Points (IMPs).

In a Knockout match (as the name implies) if you lose, you're out of the event.

A win in a Swiss match is either determined by Win/Loss or the IMPs are converted to Victory Points (VP). The purpose of VPs is to help eliminate fractions and ties and put more value on the actual margin of victory. In Win/Loss, you must win by three or more IMPs for a full win. A margin of only one or two IMPs gives you  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a win.

The Board-A-Match is a difficult game (each board is a match) but with simple scoring: you win, lose, or tie each board you play.

Here is an example to illustrate these differences with team A sitting North at table #1 and team B North at table #2.

HAND	TABLE 1	TABLE 2	TEAM A IMPs
#1	+420	+450	-1
#2	-200	-100	-3
#3	+110	-110	+6
#4	+620	+620	0
Total			+2

In this example team A is ahead by two IMPs.

If Win/Loss scoring is used, team A would receive only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a win since their victory was by less than three IMPs.

If the event is using Victory Points, the 2 IMPs are converted to 11 VPs while team B receives 9 VPs.

If Board-A-Match scoring is used, team B would win the round because they won two boards, lost one, and tied one.

### BRIDGE EXPRESSIONS

Here are some bridge expressions designed to help our bidding and play. If you know of others, please share with me.

#### 1. Lead high for hate, lead low for like.

When leading, the card you lead can tell partner whether you want that suit returned.

#### 2. Six four, bid some more.

With a six – four distribution, introduce your second suit if you can; by doing so, you are showing nine of your thirteen cards.

#### 3. Six five, come alive.

With such good distribution, don't be silent.

#### 4. Throw high means "yes;" throw low means "no."

When partner leads on the first round of a suit, the card you play sends a message.

#### 5. Trump in dummy – yes.

It is much better to trump in the short hand since those trumps do not normally score tricks on their own.

#### 6. If you have to lose a trick, get the pain over with quick.

Lose your tricks early while you still have control in other suits.

#### 7. Five is for the other side.

Eleven tricks are hard to win. It is usually easier to try to win three tricks on defense.

#### 8. If in dummy there's a long suit, the need to win tricks is quite acute.

When dummy has a long strong suit that will provide discards, the defense must try to win their tricks quickly.

#### 9. Eight ever, nine never.

This applies to whether you should finesse when missing the queen. Eleven tricks are hard to win. It is usually easier to try to win three tricks on defense.





## Community Bridge Home News

By Ruth M. Shuler

During these extraordinary times, the health, safety and well-being of our Community Bridge Home family is our most important priority.

The Officers and Board of Directors did not undertake the decision to postpone our Anniversary Meeting and Benefit Game lightly. It was with great regret we did so. After thoughtful review and consideration, we were most concerned with the health and welfare of our Community Bridge Home family.

We appreciate your continued support, because your involvement is important and very much needed. Thank you and stay safe.

## Bridge Base Online

Social play. ACBL Games. Tournaments. Solitaire.

Play bridge online at

[www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

**Earn points at an ABA Tournament**

**Every Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm**

**Play with your partner or a robot**

## 2020 Herman Huff SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, the Metropolitan Bridge Unit (MBU) awards \$500 grants to two undergraduate students. The minimum eligibility requirement is having completed at least three semesters of their continuing education towards a four-year degree by June 2020. Students who meet this requirement can request an application at [mbuscholar@gmail.com](mailto:mbuscholar@gmail.com) or download the application from the [MBU website](#).

Completed applications are due by July 15, 2020. Award recipients will be notified by August 1, 2020.







## Get Well Wishes



**Bayview**  
Rudy Cummings  
Phyllis Jones

**Mount Vernon**  
Eugenia Bye  
Anderson Jones  
Louise Shaw  
Jeanne Simmons

**Triangle**  
Dorothy Haime



## Condolences

### Co-op City

Lori Blackman, on the passing of her brother,  
Irvin Sonny Stokes III

Ernestine Myles, on the passing of her sister,  
Dorothy Williams

### Jet Setter

Jane Harris, on the passing of her husband,  
Hezekiah Harris

Beverly Session-Kelly, on the passing of her  
mother

The family of Viola Waterman

### Leisure

The family of Calvin Bass

### Triangle

Minnie Goka, on the passing of her brother-  
in-law



## APRIL

**BAYVIEW**  
Eva DeLeon  
Donna Woo

**MOUNT VERNON**  
Charlotte Roberson  
Charles Guest

**BROOKLYNITES**  
Kathleen Marshall

**SPRINGFIELD**  
Lavaris Marks  
Moses Smallwood

**CO-OP CITY**  
Edna Salley

**TRIANGLE**

Mae Ott  
Marzella Dawkins

**COSMO**  
Ellen Tauber  
Helen Williams

**TWILIGHT**  
Morris Johnson

## MAY

**BAYVIEW**  
Patricia Jackson Thomas

**LEISURE**  
Paula Morris  
Larry Gutman

**BROOKLYNITES**  
Joanne Swain  
Regine Latortue

**MOUNT VERNON**  
Harvey Brandwein  
Jean DeVeaux  
Jean Keicz

**CO-OP CITY**  
Sylvia Butler  
Alicia Mapp  
Genesis Washington

**SPRINGFIELD**  
Janice McBean  
Sharon Fox

**COSMO**  
Joan Barash

**TRIANGLE**  
Betty Donnerson  
Ida Minault

**JET SETTER**  
Grace Parris

**TWILIGHT**  
Shirley Gross

## JUNE

**BAYVIEW**  
Christian Baxter

**BROOKLYNITES**  
Diane Gatewood

**CO-OP CITY**  
Delius Wilson

**COSMO**  
Cheryll Jones  
Jose Ramos  
Ruth Shuler

**MOUNT VERNON**  
Louise Shaw  
Elmond Harley  
Wanda Miles

**TRIANGLE**  
Julius Fields  
Annie Nelson

**TWILIGHT**  
Raye Liverpool



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## April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 ABA Spring National Baltimore, MD.	3 ABA Spring National	4 ABA Spring National
5 ABA Spring National Palm Sunday	6 ABA Spring National	7 ABA Spring National	8 ABA Spring National Baltimore, MD.	9	10	11
12 Easter	13 Bayview "C" @ BH 12:30PM	14	15 Leisure Benefit CHSCC @ Leisure 11AM	16	17	18
19	20 DBCMV "C" @ MV 6PM	21	22	23 Directors' Meeting & Training @ BH 10AM	24	25 MBU Quarterly Meeting & BH Benefit @ BH 10AM
26	27 Triangle ABA Scholarship @ Harlem 11AM	28	29 Co-op ABA Scholarship @ Bx 1PM	30		

## May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Brooklynites H. Huff @ Bklyn 11AM	2
3	4	5 Jetsetters Anniversary "C" @ BH 12:30PM	6	7 Astro Pro-Am BAM (Team of 4) @ BH 12:30PM	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11 DBCMV HQ Benefit @ MV 6PM	12	13 Leisure "C" @ Leisure 11AM	14	15	16 Spfld. "C" @ BH 12:30pm
17	18 Triangle ABA HQ Benefit @ Harlem 11AM	19	20 Co-op "C" @ Bx 1PM	21	22 Eastern Sectional @ Parsippany, NJ	23 Eastern Sectional
24 Eastern Sectional	25 Eastern Sectional Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 ABA Nationwide @ BH 12PM	6
7	8 DBCMV "C" @ MV 6PM	9	10 Leisure ABA Scholarship @ Leisure 11AM	11	12 Brooklynites Quincy St. Ben. @ Bklyn 11AM	13
14	15 Triangle "C" @ Harlem 11AM	16 Directors' Meeting & Training @ BH 10AM	17 Cosmo U/600 @ BH 12:30PM	18	19	20 "Longest Day" @ BH 10AM (2 Games)
21 Father's Day	22	23 Westbury "B" @ WB 10AM (YWC Ctr.) (2 Sessions)	24 Co-op "C" Closing Party @ Bx 1PM	25	26	27
28	29 Bayview/Jetsetters "B" (2 Sessions) @ BH 10AM	30				

Submissions for the July 2020 issue are due June 15, 2020



### AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION EASTERN SECTION SPRING FLING

## May 22-25, 2020

**Friday, May 22**

11 am Executive Board Meeting  
2 pm Headquarters Benefit Game\*  
7 pm Open Pairs\*

**Sunday, May 24**

11 am Membership Meeting  
2 pm Open Pairs Session 1\*  
7 pm Open Pairs Session 2\*

**Saturday, May 23**

9 am BAM (Team of 4) Session 1  
9 am Side Game\*  
2 pm BAM (Team of 4) Session 2  
2 pm Side Game\*  
7 pm Open Pairs\*

**Monday, May 25**

9 am Modified RR Session 1  
9 am Side Game\*  
TBA Modified RR Session 2

**PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BAM DUE BY 10 PM**

**NEED A PARTNER? Call Charles Guest 914.803.7491 and Patricia Thomas 718.476.2783**

**GLADYS SMITH EASTERN SECTION VICE PRESIDENT  
MARY DUNCAN & ANNETTA WALLACE DIRECTORS  
STEVEN BOND & CAROLE SMITH TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRS**

**Playing Fee: \$11 per session**  
\*New players section if attendance warrants

**HOLIDAY INN**  
707 US Route 46 East, Parsippany, NJ 07054  
Room Rate: \$94 + tax/double occupancy  
Reservation Deadline: April 21, 2020  
1.973.263.2000 ♦ Group Code: ESB

**HOTEL AMENITIES INCLUDE:**  
Complimentary Breakfast Daily  
Free Wi-Fi ♦ Free Parking  
Refrigerator ♦ Microwave ♦ Keurig Coffee Machine  
Pool and Fitness Center



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Eastern Section  
American Bridge Association

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