



THE CONSUMER

WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

www.mbuinc.org

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

January 2020



President's Message

By Lynda J. Straker

Greetings, MBU family. The holiday season is a time for reflection and hope. The year 2019 brought happy times and heartaches for our members. I appreciate your support of the MBU agenda and the energy and cooperation invested by members in special games and events during 2019. Thank you to everyone. Congratulations to all involved in our 2019 "AAA" which was a tremendous success according to feedback obtained from those in attendance.

We look forward to the new year and ways to contribute to the growth of the MBU. I welcome any suggestions and invite you to send them via email to me prior to our annual membership meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 11 am at the Community Bridge Home.

During our annual meeting, we will hold our Memorial Service honoring members who passed during 2019 and we will elect MBU officers to serve during 2020 and 2021. After our meeting, we will enjoy a meal and participate in an "A" game.

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a satisfying 2020 filled with good health and great bridge.



Unwrap Your Bridge Skills

By Beverly Session-Kelly
and Victoria Williams

Thank you MBU President **Lynda Straker** for entrusting us to co-chair the 2019 AAA Tournament. It was fun, frustrating, and frightening, and yet a gratifying experience.

What an awesome committee we had. We could not have done it without the help of our dynamite committee.

Lynda Straker and **Rita Thompson** were our publicity team. They got the word out on the AAA Tournament. Rita did a fantastic job on the flyers, fact sheet and the awards luncheon program.

Sitting at the partnership desk were **Charles Guest** and **Patricia Jackson Thomas**. Anyone who needed a partner, or a roommate, was greeted with a smile and given the assistance requested.

Raffles, raffles, raffles. Keeping track of the raffles was quite an undertaking. We take our hats off to **Dolores Watson**, the raffle chair. We knew she was the perfect person for that assignment, and she carried it out effortlessly.

Patricia Jackson prepared the decorations for the awards luncheon. She did a beautiful job (hope someone took pictures). It's going to be hard to top those designs next year. We think she should start planning now for 2020.

Many thanks to **Cheryll Jones**. As always, she did a wonderful job planning the annual awards luncheon. The food was delicious and plentiful. She also gave us great tips that were invaluable. (Don't tell her, but we will be looking to her for some more priceless tips.)

Dorene Christmas and **Valerie Brooks** provided the tasty treats. Didn't they come at just the right time? Do you think we could coax them to do it next year?

It is a lot of work to monitor, track and report everyone's city points throughout the year. For **Lois Wright**, handing out trophies and scrip was the fun part of her job. She gets so much joy watching the awardees break out in big smiles when receiving their awards.

What a treat the new players were given. **Dr. Parvez Mehta** told the new players to "keep the bidding simple." The lecture was simple but profound. It was a great seminar. We hope to see Dr. Mehta again in 2020. Hint, hint.

Tournament Chair **John Demos** ensured we had all the materials we needed for the tournament. We often take it for granted that everything we need is available. We lacked for nothing. Thank you, John, for all you do. In addition, John assisted Director-in-Charge **Annetta Wallace**.

We would be remiss if we did not give a shout out to **Annetta Wallace**, the director-in-charge, for doing a fantastic job. The games were well organized and timely. Thank you for the great games!

Thank you to **Sharon Fox**, committee secretary, for keeping us grounded and always having our back.

To the committee members, each and every one of you helped to make this tournament a success. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Metropolitan Bridge Unit 2019 AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS

ASTERISK	1 st 2 nd	Dorene Christmas Jane Atlas
MASTER	1 st 2 nd	Beverly Session-Kelly Rita Thompson
LIFE MASTER	1 st 2 nd	Patricia Jackson Lois M. Wright
SR. LIFE MASTER	1 st 2 nd	Gwendolyn Leverett Barbara Wingate
RUBY	1 st 2 nd	Valerie Brooks Christian Baxter
DIAMOND	1 st 2 nd	Larry Gutman Carole Smith
SILVER DIAMOND	1 st 2 nd	Janice McBean Lynda Straker
GOLD DIAMOND	1 st 2 nd	Allen L. Morton Gloria Hobbs
PLATINUM DIAMOND	1 st 2 nd	Cheryll Jones Parvez Mehta
BLACK DIAMOND	1 st 2 nd	Errol Grant I. Calvin Morris
GRAND LIFE MASTER	1 st 2 nd	Julius C. Fields George Hudson

AAA Tournament Co-Chairs Beverly Session-Kelly and Victoria Williams

"What an awesome committee we had. We could not have done it without the help of our dynamite committee."



"For **Lois Wright**, handing out trophies and scrip was the fun part of her job."

MBU President Lynda Straker and Cheryll Jones

"Many thanks to **Cheryll Jones**. As always, she did a wonderful job planning the annual awards luncheon."



"AAA" Raffle Winners



1st Prize	\$500 Dan Grant - Westbury
2nd Prize	\$400 Sheila Osborne - Brooklynites
3rd Prize	\$100 Steven Bond - Cosmopolitan



"**Dolores Watson**, the raffle chair. We knew she was the perfect person for that assignment."



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Jet Setter DBC

By Yvonne Ebea

The Jet Setters wish everyone peace, happiness, and good health during 2020.

The club will be open every Tuesday at the Community Bridge Home. Beginning bridge classes and supervised bridge begin at 10:30 am, collation at 11:30 am and game at 12:30 pm. Come join us and bring a friend. Thank you for your continued support.

Happy birthday to our members who will celebrate their birthdays soon. To members and friends on the mend, we hope each new day will bring you renewed strength.

Cosmo's Corner

By Therese Hamilton

The year 2020 is here and we wish you a happy and prosperous new year. We hope your holiday season was great.

Congratulations to all the winners at the recent AAA Tournament, particularly Cosmo members Patricia Jackson (and her partner), Lois Wright, and Barbara Wingate. Well done! Congrats also to Steven Bond, 3rd place winner of the AAA raffle.

Many thanks to all who attended our holiday party on January 8.

From Bayview With Love

By Valerie Brooks

Happy holidays to all! Sincere thanks to all who attended our Pre-Thanksgiving Feast and "C" Game.

Congratulations to the MBU for hosting a fabulous AAA Tournament. Kudos to all our winners.

Bayview will be closed from Monday, December 23 to Monday, January 27. We will re-open on Monday, February 3. Classes will begin at 10 am sharp. Until then, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Brooklynites DBC

By Lois Francis, President

The youngest club in the Metropolitan Bridge Unit has a charter that is finally five years old. We sincerely thank those of you who came to celebrate with us on the memorable day in January 2020. Our club awarded the top player trophies to Elijah Seabrook and Barry Jamison. Honored were those with the club from its

inception: John Hopkins, Mildred Adams, Kathleen Marshall, Consuelo Tomlinson, and Lois Francis.

Year 2019 brought Brooklynites growth both in membership and in bridge skills. Regine Latortue, Diane Gatewood, and Margaret Persaud are our newest members. We are blessed to have them with us. In 2019 we offered free Audrey Grant Book 1 and Book 2 classes. Many took advantage.

We were well represented at the MBU 2019 AAA Tournament in Atlantic City. Kudos to Dorene Christmas and Jane Atlas, our #1 and #2 Asterisk awardees at the tournament.



Brooklynites sold the AAA raffle \$400 prize to Sheila Osbourne, the line dance leader at Quincy Residences where the Brooklynites play bridge.

Twilight DBC

By Jesse Palmer

Wow! What has happened to this year? It went so fast. Now is the time to wish all MBU members a happy new year!

Birthday greetings in February to Delores Crosse, Robert Patterson and E. Frances Reid.

Our get well list includes Enric Boxill, Shirley Gross and Christine Blount. Enric is recuperating with his family in Maryland. Christine thanks her bridge family for their calls, prayers and lovely flowers. They all aided her to a speedy recovery. Therefore, she is sending a special holiday greeting to MBU members.

Congratulation to all of the winners at the AAA Tournament held in December at the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

We would like to thank everyone that supported our "C" Game and Christmas Party on December 12, 2019. Please feel free to come and play with us on Thursdays at 1630 St. Mark Place, Brooklyn, NY. Lunch is served at 12 noon and the game begins at 1 pm sharp.

Westbury DBC

By Patricia Binyard

The Westbury Duplicate Bridge Club welcomes you into the new decade with a celebratory shout out that we are here to see it. Condolences to Harriet Walcott on her lifetime partner John Cook who passed away on December 2, 2019. John was a long-time club member until his illness prevented him from continuing to play.

Our club will be back in session on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 with collation at 5:15 pm and the game starting at 6 pm sharp. Bridge classes will begin on January 12 at the "Yes We Can" Center. Beginners session from 2 pm-4 pm and Intermediate begins at 4 pm.



Co-op City DBC

By Lori Blackman

Greetings bridge players. Co-op City Duplicate Bridge Club has a larger room. We're still located at Dreiser Loop but now you will find us in Room 2. Make a left turn once you get off the elevator. Collation is at 12 noon with the game starting at 1 pm.

On behalf of our president, Dorothy Smith, the executive board and all members of the Co-op City DBC, we wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season. We also want everyone to have a healthy and prosperous new year.

Thank you for spending 2019 with us and we can't wait to see you at the bridge table in 2020!

DBC of Mount Vernon

By Rita Thompson

Welcome to our new members Susan Samtur and Harvey Brandwein. Susan, along with Harvey and his wife Ann, have been playing bridge with us the past several months. Now both are ABA and DBCMV members, and we look forward to continuing seeing them at our club games on Mondays at 6 pm. We owe their recruitment to the ambassadorship of Alfred Knight who encourages his bridge students to join him at bridge games not only in Mount Vernon but also at the Co-op City DBC.

During 2020, our club is exploring opportunities to teach bridge to seniors and young people in Mount Vernon. Club President Charles Guest is vigorously spearheading this effort.

Wishing everyone good health, prosperity and great bridge in the new year.

Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

Now that we have all recovered from a fun AAA Tournament, a BIG shout out to our tireless AAA Tournament directors, Annetta Wallace and John Demos. They worked hard keeping us organized and games running smoothly. Thank you, thank you, thank you, to both of you for your hard work. It was also great to see Moses and Evelyn Smallwood at the AAA Tournament.

Happy birthday to Springfield DBC members Eliza Brann in December and Daisy Carew-Clarke and Marcia Demos in January.

The Astro-Springfield Holiday Party was lively and filled with good food and a good game. Thanks to all who attended. We hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday season.

Triangle DBC

By Bernice Williams

Greetings fellow bridge players. As the holiday season is now upon us, good health and wealth to all. Our Barbara Jennings enjoyed a brief vacation away from us and we are glad to have her back.

Through the years Triangle has had some outstanding members and one is Mrs. Vivien Cox, always gracious and a pleasure to share your table.

Some of us are interested in the director's training as this is a dire need. John Demos and Annetta Wallace are doing their best to allow us to succeed in this endeavor.

Our January birthdays are Alice Butler, Mayme Frazier, Theodora Hartman, and Minnie Goka. Happy birthday in February to Triangle's second Grand Master John Washington.

Season's Greetings from The Community Bridge Home

By Ruth M. Shuler

The Community Bridge Home Executive Board would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support during 2019, and wishes everyone a very healthy, happy and prosperous 2020.

We are a dedicated and committed group, all of whom volunteer our talents and services to maintain the building and its programs in an exemplary manner. We are also helping provide a comfortable, convenient environment for groups to meet, socialize, celebrate, learn and enjoy.

If you have not done so as yet, please consider becoming a member of The Community Bridge Home. As a member, you may exercise your rights at the Annual General Membership Meetings. You will also receive one 10 percent discount per year for any social activity/event you hold at the Bridge Home. We also request that you become a "working volunteer," so that we can continue our services to the community and to the bridge clubs without undue hardship.

The following notices are forthcoming:

- 1) Annual membership dues reminder - \$50
- 2) \$5 per month contribution request (\$60 per year)

We look forward to seeing you at our 21st Anniversary Meeting. Please save the date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 11 am.



The Director's Corner

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE AND PROTOCOL

Table Manners

- ◆ Cards should not be taken out of the board before all players are at the table.
- ◆ Before looking at your cards, count your hand and ensure that you have exactly 13 cards.
- ◆ Do greet your opponents at the table and treat them with respect and courtesy.
- ◆ Do not indulge in post-mortems with your partner directly after a hand is finished (save it for after the game). Not only could a post-mortem undermine partnership confidence, but it may communicate information to players who have not played the hand at other tables.
- ◆ Do not criticize partner. (Keep it to yourself until after the game. You will have cooled down by then, and you may have figured out that you share some of the blame.)
- ◆ Do compliment your opponents for fine bidding or play (especially beginners).
- ◆ Do say "director please" in a pleasant tone. Keep your hand up so that the director can quickly determine who called.
- ◆ Do always support your partner. She/he is the only player in the room that is on your side.

The Auction

- ◆ Bidding boxes are designed to reduce the possibility of information being communicated between partners by voice intonation or other mannerisms such as eye contact. When using the bidding box, decide what your bid is going to be before reaching for, or touching, cards in the bidding box. An extreme example of this is when you touch a 2♥ card and then pull out a pass card.
- ◆ Do not ask for information from your opponents unless it is your turn to bid.
- ◆ Do not ask what a bid means unless you intend to bid. Asking for information without bidding could, in certain circumstances, be construed as passing unauthorized information to one's partner. If one does not intend to bid, questions of the opponents should be made after the auction has concluded.

Play of the Hand

- ◆ Do say "thank you" to your partner when he/she puts the dummy on the table. (Even though you are thinking to yourself 'where the heck is the hand my partner was bidding?')
- ◆ Do, when you are on opening lead, lead first and then write the contract on your score sheet. When you are on opening lead, detach a card from your hand and lay it face down on the table. This prevents irregularities, such as leading when it is not your turn to lead and allows questions about the auction and any alerts to be answered. All players, except dummy, may now request a review of the auction and an explanation of any

alerted calls. You, as the opening leader, may ask for a review of the bidding before you make your first lead. Other players may also ask for a review of the auction at their first opportunity to play.

- ◆ Do NOT snap your cards down on the table.
- ◆ Do not detach a card from your hand before it is your turn to play. Do not pull up a card, push it back into your hand, and then pull up another card. Nor should you detach a card and then replace it to play another card. Also, never rearrange your hand when you are out of a suit. All these maneuvers provide additional valuable information to the declarer.
- ◆ You have the right to inspect the cards that have been played on the current trick as long as YOUR card remains face up. Once all cards have been turned over (face down), no one can ask to see the cards that were played.
- ◆ At the end of a hand, ensure that you do not mix up your cards until the result is agreed with the opponents.
- ◆ North, when scoring the traveler, must present it to East-West for their acceptance prior to folding and returning it to the board. The same applies when entering the result into Bridgmates.
- ◆ Do not look at your opponent's, or partner's, cards after the hand has been played without their permission.

Dummy's Responsibilities

- ◆ Dummy may not call declarer's attention to anything except that he is about to lead from the wrong hand or to ask if he is out of the suit being played.
- ◆ Dummy may not play or touch any card in dummy (even a singleton) until declarer calls the card. If declarer designates a suit, but not the rank, he is deemed to have called for the lowest card of the suit indicated. If declarer designates a rank but not a suit, he is deemed to be continuing the suit in which dummy won the last trick.
- ◆ Dummy is not allowed to call the director.

Principle of Full Disclosure

The philosophy of active ethics tells us that winners should be determined solely by skill, flair and normal playing luck. Actively ethical partnerships take pains to ensure their opponents are fully informed. This means that all information available to your partnership must be made available to your opponents.

Did you attend the New Players' Seminar at the AAA Tournament?

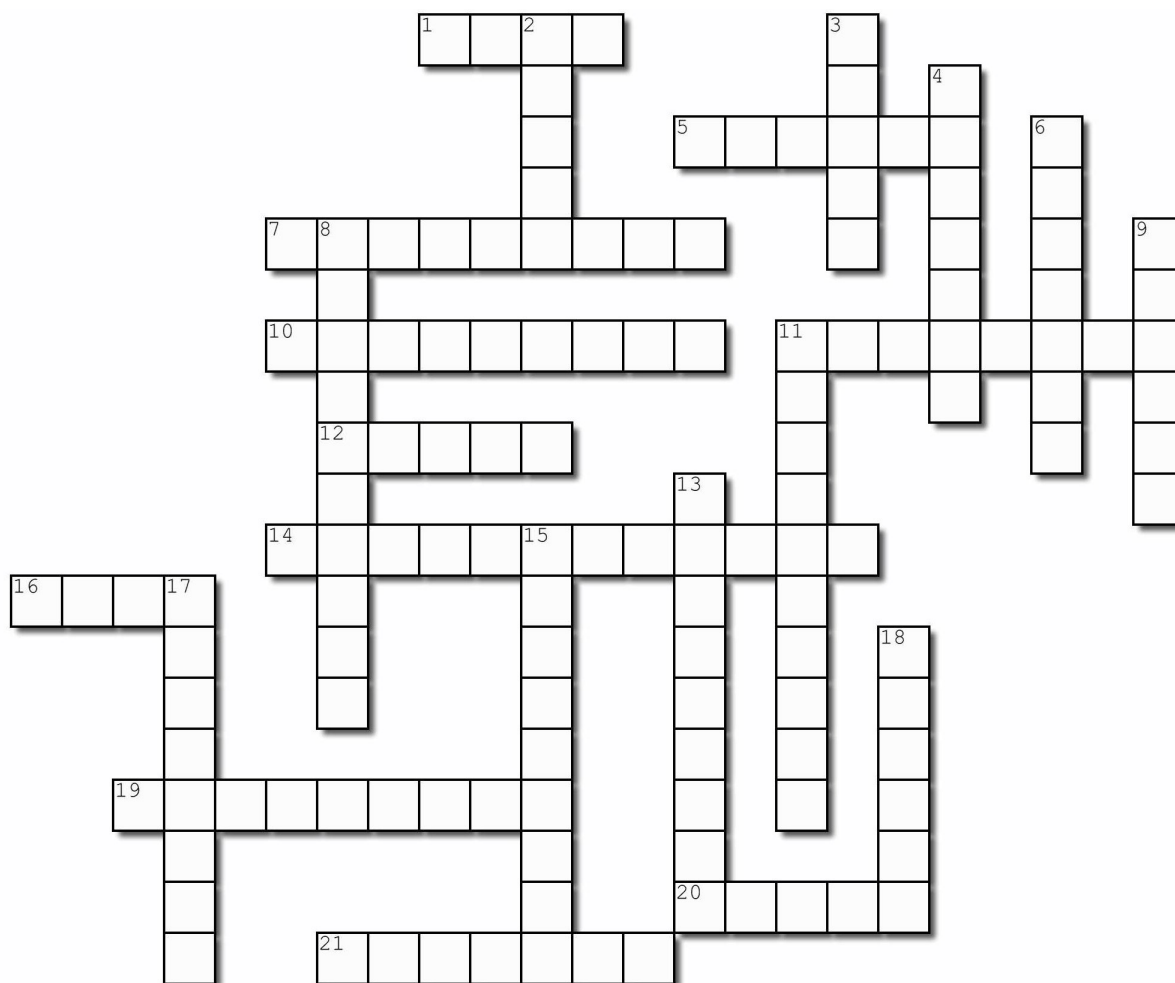
At the seminar, taught by Dr. Parvez Mehta, a director, instructor and bridge player for over 60 years, players were advised to "keep it simple" and to focus on specific aspects of the game.

Read what Dr. Mehta says about bridge conventions and check out the handy charts in the lesson handout. [Click here to download.](#)



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Bridge Vocabulary and the ABA



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. To use a trump to win a trick when void in the suit led.
5. Number of bridge clubs in the MBU.
7. First place Asterisk 2019 award winner.
10. An artificial bid asking about aces.
11. The final bid followed by three passes.
12. Placed face up on the table after opening lead.
14. MBU president.
16. A holding of zero cards in a suit.
19. 2020 Spring National city.
20. The number of cards in a golden fit.
21. Your best friend at the bridge table.

Crossword Answer Key on page 8

Down

2. Play the high card from the short side _____.
3. Second place Asterisk 2019 award winner.
4. 2019 AAA venue.
6. To play a card from another suit when void in the suit led.
8. 2020 Eastern Sectional venue.
9. Drum spinner at AAA.
11. An agreement giving a different meaning to a specific bid.
13. Any contract below game level.
15. A holding of one card in a suit.
17. The player from the side that won the auction who first bid the strain named in the contract.
18. Handing out trophies and scrip was the best part of her job.



MBU Game Scores

Review and download games scores
and recap sheets at www.mbuinc.org



Get Well Wishes

Cosmopolitan
Barbara Wingate

Mount Vernon
Anderson Jones
Charlotte Roberson
Louise Shaw
Jeanne Simmons



Bayview
Rudy Cummings
Phyllis Jones

Twilight
Enric Boxill
Shirley Gross
Christine Blount



JANUARY

BAYVIEW
Mattie McCollum
Sylvia Simmons
Louise Wilson

SPRINGFIELD
Daisy Carew-Clarke
Marcia Demos

BROOKLYNITES
Denise Whethers
Terence Drayton
Vanessa Muhammed-Khan
Inez Beaty
Elijah Seabrook

TRIANGLE
Alice Butler
Mayme Frazier
Theodora Hartman
Minnie Goka

MOUNT VERNON
LaChonne DeVeaux

WESTBURY
Wilma Alexander
Ted Conliffe
Jeraldine Odoms

FEBRUARY

BAYVIEW
Henry Dennis

MOUNT VERNON
Eugenia Bye
Parvez Mehta
Naeema Mubaarak
Georgina Correa
Beryl Battle

BROOKLYNITES
Selina McNeil
John Clark
Barry Jamison

TRIANGLE
John Washington

JET SETTER
Beverly Session-Kelly
Viola Waterman
Fannie Smiths
Geraldine Granger
Harry Gaines

TWILIGHT
Delores Crosse
Robert Patterson
E. Frances Reid

WESTBURY
Tom Holloway

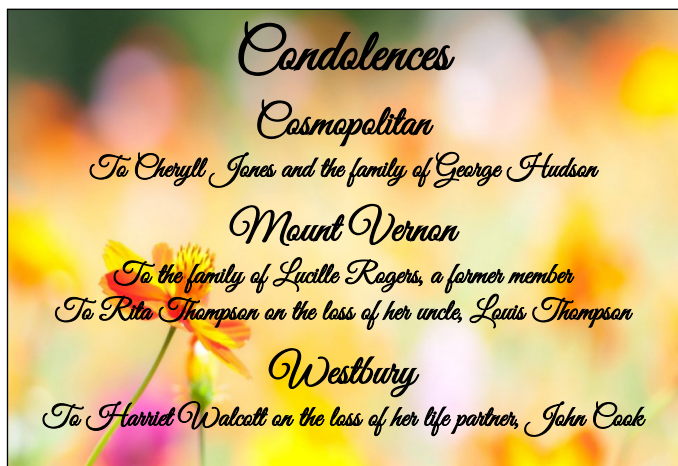
MARCH

BAYVIEW
Willie Fuchs

BROOKLYNITES
Mary A. Lewis
John Hopkins

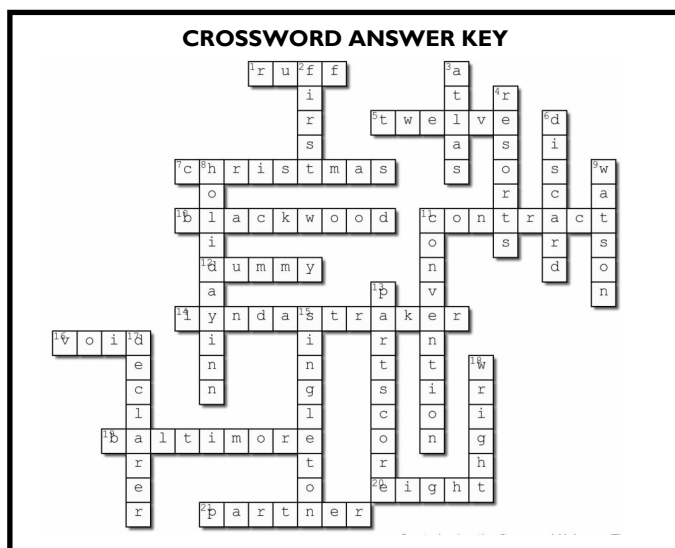
JET SETTER
Traci Stukes
Lemuel "Bill" Copeland
Minnie Hagan
Joan Handy

MOUNT VERNON
Keith Eversley
Rowena Joseph
Dolores Thompson



The raffle to benefit **The Community Bridge Home** concluded at the 2019 MBU Awards Luncheon where the winning ticket was drawn. **Altrice Braxton** of the Philadelphia Unit is the lucky winner of two tickets to *Ain't Too Proud, The Life and Times of the Temptations*, at the Imperial Theatre on Broadway in New York City.

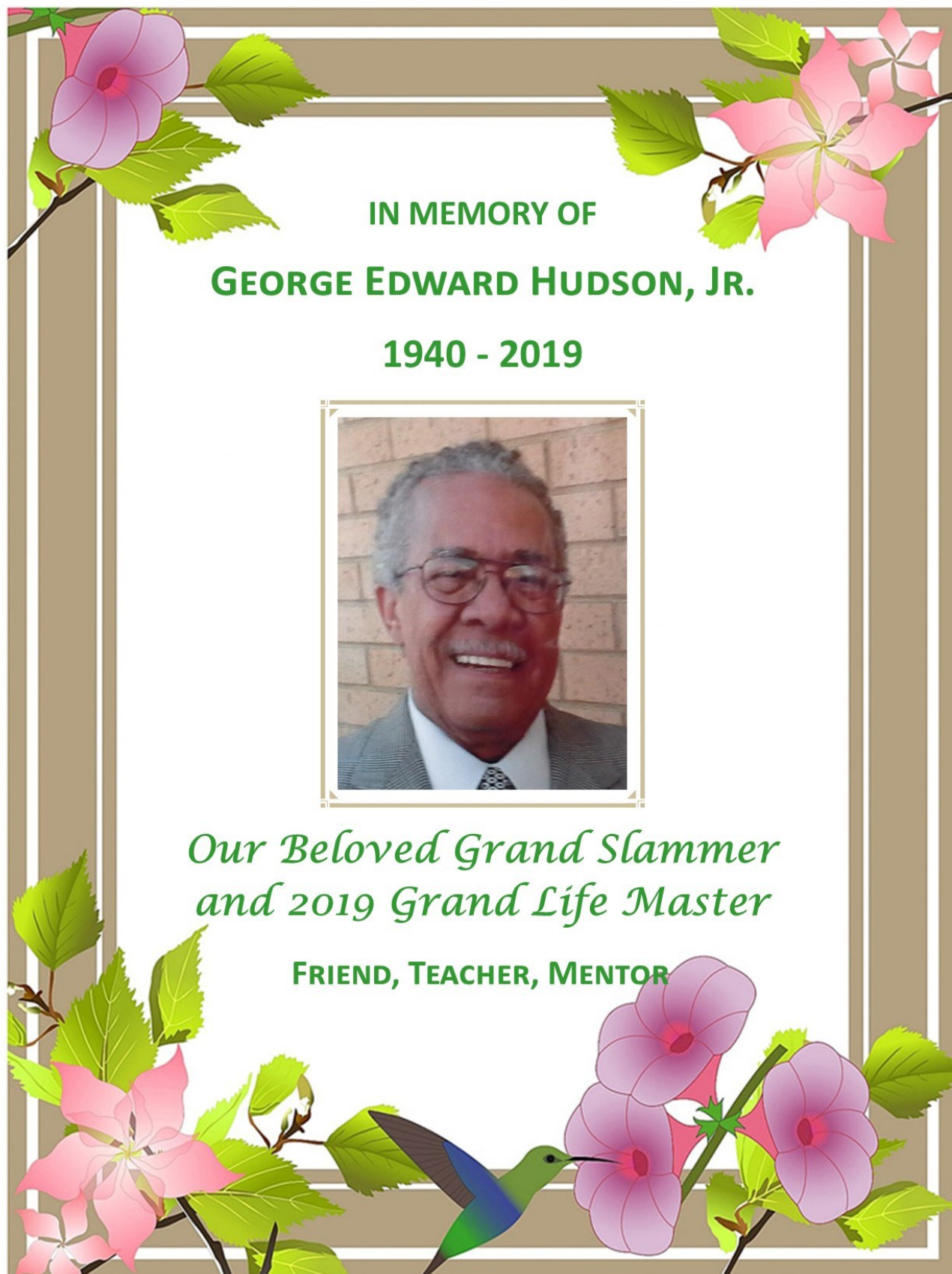
Thank you to all who participated in the raffle.





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CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 6 Triangle Special Club Benefit Game
- 8 Cosmopolitan Holiday "C" Game
- 10 Brooklynites Anniversary "C" Game
- 13 Mount Vernon ABA Scholarship Game
- 15 Leisure "C" Game
- 22 Co-op City "C" Game
- 25 MBU Quarterly Meeting and "A+" Game
- 29 Directors' Meeting and Training

FEBRUARY

- 3 Mt. Vernon "C" Game
- 5 Leisure Headquarters Benefit Game
- 10 Triangle "C" Game
- 18 Directors' Meeting and Training
- 19 Co-op City ABA Headquarters Benefit Game
- 22 Springfield "C" Game
- 27 Astro "C" Game

MARCH

- 4 ABA Nationwide Game
- 6-8 Cherry Blossom Tournament
Silver Springs, Maryland
- 11 Co-op City Herman Huff Scholarship Game
- 12 Twilight "C" Game
- 14 Springfield Herman Huff Scholarship Game
- 16 Mt. Vernon Herman Huff Scholarship Game
- 18 Directors' Meeting and Training
- 21 Cosmopolitan/Bridge Home Anniversary
Meeting and Benefit Game
- 24 Westbury "C" Game
- 25 Leisure Herman Huff Scholarship Game
- 30 Triangle Herman Huff Scholarship Game

LEAD THE ABA: EASTERN SECTION

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Nominations must be
received by MARCH 15,
2020. Elections will be
held at the Eastern
Section Tournament.

Send your nominations to
eastreg2020@yahoo.com



AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION EASTERN SECTION SPRING FLING

May 22-25, 2020

<p>Friday, May 22</p> <p>11 am Executive Board Meeting 2 pm Headquarters Benefit Game* 7 pm Open Pairs*</p> <p>Sunday, May 24</p> <p>11 am Membership Meeting 2 pm Open Pairs Session 1* 7 pm Open Pairs Session 2*</p>	<p>Saturday, May 23</p> <p>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*</p> <p>Monday, May 25</p> <p>9 am Modified RR Session 1 9 am Side Game* TBA Modified RR Session 2</p>
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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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TO:

Thank you to our reporters.

Submissions for the April 2020
issue are due March 15, 2020

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Eastern Section
American Bridge Association
www.abaeas.org
www.ababridge.org