



THE CONSUMER

WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

www.mbuinc.org

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

July 2020



President's Message

By Lynda J. Straker

Greetings, MBU Family,

It has been some time since we have been together. Some of us have experienced personal grief for lives lost during this period, whether due to COVID-19 or due to natural causes. As a family, we embrace all who are in mourning with love and condolences and wish you God's peace.

For our own safety, we have been staying at home to the extent possible. As our local communities prepare to "open up," we will speculate about the feasibility of venturing out into a world remade with "safe practices." Wearing masks or facial coverings, social distancing and frequent washing of our hands are now, and will be, part of our "new normal."

This pandemic has had a devastating affect on our beloved game of duplicate bridge. Sitting at bridge tables, passing boards, and handling cards is not consistent with required "safe practices." Some may believe that when a safe and effective vaccine is widely distributed, the game of duplicate bridge, as we remember it, will return.

Until that time, I would encourage all MBU members to play online at Bridge Base Online. True, it's not the same but it's as close as we can get to maintaining and/or developing our bridge skills while we wait for the return of our customary bridge games.

A portion of the proceeds from the first ABA game on Wednesdays, at 11 am, benefit the Community Bridge Home. Please make sure to play in that game!

For your information, the MBU Executive Board met during a telephone conference and decided to postpone our 2020 "AAA." The Resorts Casino Hotel has not yet been permitted to open and after discussion with their agent, they are uncertain they would be able to meet the necessary standards for our scheduled 2020 tournament. Therefore, they agreed to postpone our tournament, without penalty, to November 28 – December 2, 2021.

The question of whether to hold our 2021 AAA will be decided in December 2020 during a special meeting of the MBU Executive Board.

Know that I think about our MBU membership often and hope everyone does everything possible to stay well. Avoid crowds, wear masks, and play bridge on BBO. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again in person – when the time is right.

Until we meet again,

Online Bridge Experience

By Dolores Watson

What are your thoughts about playing bridge online? Carlos Ghosn, a well-known international bridge player, was interviewed by a bridge magazine and he had this to say:

"In terms of the development of your technique, it is an extraordinary tool. You can replay a deal if you ever make a mistake, compare your results to those of other players, compare your card play to that of a player having made a fabulous move. You can effectively fine tune your technique anytime, anywhere, under any condition. For this it is extraordinary. But let's not forget that you are playing against a computer. Consequently, all social and festive aspects of bridge disappear, as does the psychological dimension of the game that otherwise makes it possible to determine the profile of one's opponent. Personally, playing online doesn't stop me from running to the club to play my game. It even enhances the fun I have playing at a real table; they are complementary for me."

Sadly, playing at a real table during the COVID-19 pandemic is not feasible now. Our continued appreciation to our first responders and front-line medical/health providers. Fortunately, the American Bridge Association has arranged with BBO (www.bridgebase.com) to host bridge tournaments daily at 11 am, 5:30 pm, 8 pm and 11 pm. Various other games and tournaments are available throughout the day. The online experience is awaiting those who have not joined us yet. Better online than in line.



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Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

**The Metropolitan Bridge Unit of New York
is Pleased to Honor Our Beloved Nonagenarians**

Presenting

The Class of 2020



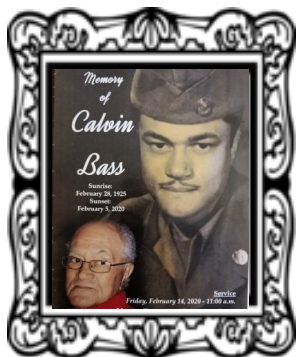
Betty Ball
Twilight DBC, Brooklyn, NY



Pearl S. Bostic
Twilight DBC, Brooklyn, NY



Eva DeLeon (1922-2020)
Bayview DBC, Queens, NY



Calvin Bass (1925-2020)
Leisure DBC, New York, NY



Sylvia Butler
Co-op City DBC, Bronx, NY



Therese Hamilton
Cosmopolitan DBC, Queens, NY



Beryl Battle
DBC of Mount Vernon, NY



Dolores E. Davis
Co-op City DBC, Bronx, NY



Joan Handy
Jet Setter DBC, Queens, NY



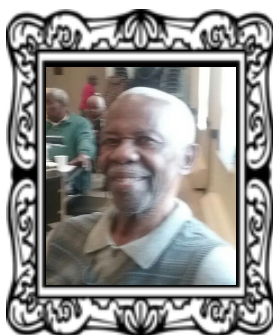
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Jane Harris
Jet Setter DBC, Queens, NY



Alfred Knight
DBC of Mount Vernon, NY



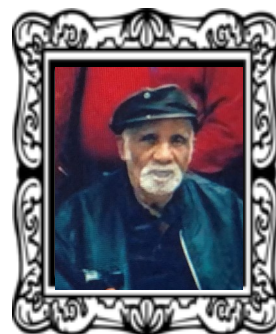
Julia Rinehardt
Astro DBC, Queens, NY



Dr. Gloria Hobbs
DBC of Mount Vernon, NY



James McKeown
Springfield DBC, Queens, NY



William Russell
Cosmopolitan DBC, Queens, NY



Morris and Gloria Johnson
Twilight DBC, Brooklyn, NY



I. Calvin Morris
Jet Setter DBC, Queens, NY



Clarence Schmidt
DBC of Mount Vernon, NY



Naomi Jones
DBC of Mount Vernon, NY



Grace Parris
Jet Setter DBC, Queens, NY



Louise Shaw (1926-2020)
DBC of Mount Vernon, NY



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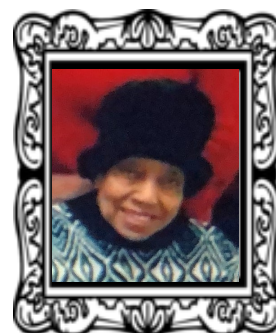
Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.



Evelyn and Moses Smallwood
Springfield DBC, Queens, NY



Consuelo Tomlinson
Brooklynites DBC, Brooklyn, NY



Helen Williams
Cosmopolitan DBC, Queens, NY



Jannie Smith
Co-op City DBC, Bronx, NY



John Washington
Triangle DBC, New York, NY



Delius Wilson
Co-op City DBC, Bronx, NY



Ermile Stewart
Triangle DBC, New York, NY



Viola Waterman (1927-2020)
Jet Setter DBC, Queens, NY



Louise Wilson
Bayview DBC, Queens, NY



Jet Setter DBC

By Beverly Session-Kelly

Greetings from the Jet Setters. The Jet Setters hope that everyone is doing well and keeping safe during this pandemic. While we enjoy playing bridge online and the daily tournaments, we truly miss our face-to-face interactions. We hope and pray that we will be able to see everyone again soon.

Cosmo's Corner

By Steven Bond

In the last issue, news of upcoming events was paramount; then EVERYTHING STOPPED, and all upcoming events were subsequently cancelled. About half of our members are now playing bridge online, and we wish them good luck.

Unfortunately, not all the news is benign. We lost Harvey Stone, a member for almost 20 years. His cheerfulness will be missed when we get back to the tables.

We wish a happy birthday to all those born in July, August, and September; they are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Hopefully, later this year, we will have news of things restarting, at least in the new year. Take care and be safe.

Astro DBC

By Doris White

Astro is pleased to report that our club members are well. We all look forward to seeing and playing with our bridge friends again. Until then, stay safe. Enjoy the summer months.

Brooklynites DBC

By Jane Atlas

President Lois Francis has been giving free bridge classes on Zoom every Wednesday at 2 pm EDT, and free beginning bridge classes every Sunday at 3 pm EDT.

Please join us when we resume our 11 am Friday morning game at 625 Quincy Street. Until then, stay well and safe.

DBC of Mount Vernon

By Rita Thompson

Many of our members are playing bridge daily on BBO. It is a good way to pass the time as well as maintain and improve our bridge play while we continue social distancing. Our computers and smart phones are now essential to our daily activities. Bridge, church, graduations, birthdays and just keeping in touch are some of the activities we now participate in with our devices.

When we return to the bridge tables, DBCMV President Charles Guest plans to hold a memorial service for long-time member Louise Shaw who passed away recently. Louise is among the nonagenarians featured in this issue.

Do keep safe by adhering to guidelines to prevent exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Eventually, we will all be able to safely resume our normal activities.

Triangle DBC

By Bernice Williams

Greetings, fellow bridge players. As we are all holding on during these dire times, condolences to the many whom have lost loved ones. We must do as Adam Powell said and "keep the faith."

Now, on a more pleasant note, Triangle's Allen Morton has achieved the level "Platinum Diamond." To do so, you must amass 10,000+ points. We all know that is no easy feat and comes with hard work and diligence.

Annie Nelson had a birthday on June 5th. Belated Happy Father's Day. With all the gloom and doom, it was pleasant to get cards for Mother's Day and Memorial Day from Mount Vernon's Charles Guest who continues to be an asset to our organization.

As I say so long, hoping it will not be too much longer before we return to the "good old days."

Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

As we begin the summer, we hope that everyone continues to stay as safe as possible. Do join us on BBO daily or weekly to support our organization.

Our birthdays this time are Diana Green, who is celebrating on June 28 and June Robinson on June 24. We wish them good health and a blessed birthday. We will surely miss Jerry Cunningham who passed in March. Jerry often led us in heartfelt prayer before collation and game play.



Bayview DBC

By Valerie Brooks

Greetings, bridge family! May God bless each and every one of us and our Bridge Home. Stay safe and we will see many of you on BBO.

Westbury DBC

By Patricia Binyard

What a beautiful time of the year. The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming and the weather has been fantastic. We hope that summer will grace us with even better weather. Because there are so few people out and about in Westbury, the rabbits are taking over and multiplying.

As many of you know Tom Holloway was hospitalized but is now in a rehabilitation facility and is getting stronger everyday. Please continue to send him cards and well wishes to: Daleview Care Center, 574 Fulton Street Farmingdale, New York 11735. Additionally, please keep Wilma Alexander, Ted Cauliffe, Mayer Wiesen and Anthony Toran in your prayers. Birthdays in June - Camille Grant, Donna Lewis, Lenny Binyard and July - Denise Thompson.



By Ruth M. Shuler

In light of the growing concerns over the coronavirus, the Community Bridge Home greatly appreciates your continued support. Your involvement is especially important and very much needed during these extraordinary times.

The Officers and Board of Directors would also like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the many that have mailed in donations as these extraordinary times have called for extraordinary measures.

In addition, thank you to all the bridge players who are participating in the weekly ABA/BBO game held on Wednesdays at 11 am benefitting the Community Bridge Home. What a blessing you are. Thank you and stay safe.

The Director's Corner

By Annetta Wallace

EDITING AND SAVING A CONVENTION CARD ON BRIDGEBASE ONLINE

In the game of bridge, your opponents are entitled to know about any bidding and defensive carding agreements that you and your partner may have. Convention cards are used in "face-to-face" bridge games and on www.bridgebase.com as the primary mechanism for disclosing your partnership agreements to the opponents.

If you do not post a convention card for the partnership, the system assumes you are using SAYC (Standard American Yellow Card). This may lead to misinformation and the dreaded director call.

To complete a convention card:

Log in to BBO at www.bridgebase.com.

1. On the righthand side of the screen, select the **Account** tab.
2. In the new window, select **Convention Cards** at the top. This retrieves a list of stock convention cards that you may use as is or you can modify to suit your preferences.
3. Select **New ACBL Convention Card**, which will retrieve the blank standard ACBL convention card. Complete both sides of the card just as you normally do.
4. There is a window at the top of the card to fill in your partner's BBO username.
5. Give the card a title and save your changes.

When you register to play in a tournament with a partner, BBO will see if your partnership has already established a convention card by looking at your list of **My Convention Cards** for your partner's username. If it has, then you will be notified and BBO will use the appropriate convention card for your partnership once play begins.

HELP FOR YOU AT BBO

Technical Support: support@bridgebase.com

Report members who break the rules:
abuse@bridgebase.com

Questions about BB\$: accounting@bridgebase.com

Telephone: 1.702.466.1477



Bidding Anomaly

By Willie Fuchs

When does a 4-3 fit in a minor suit produce a better score than a 5-4 fit in a major suit?

During this ghastly COVID-19 virus pandemic, I had the opportunity to review and analyze several bridge books on complex bidding systems utilizing the Big Club/Precision structure where an opening bid of 1♣ shows 16 or more points. While reading *Transfer Responses to One Club with Relays* by Lyle Poe, one hand stood out from all the rest (see below).

Bridge players are taught that playing in a major suit fit, of 8 cards or more, is "better than" a minor suit fit, of 8 cards or more, because of the higher scores for major suit contracts vs. minor suit contracts. Ten tricks in a major suit, non-vulnerable is 420, while 11 tricks in a minor suit, non-vulnerable is 400.

In a pairs event (matchpoints), the highest score gains the most matchpoints on each board. Once an 8-card fit or longer is established, the partnership must decide if they intend to play in a part-score, game, or slam contract, based upon the number of tricks the two hands will produce.

With this in mind, what contract do you think most players would arrive at with these two hands?

Opener

♠ KQ108x
♥ x
♦ Axx
♣ AKxx

Responder

♠ AJxx
♥ Ax
♦ KQJx
♣ Jxx

The suggested bidding, playing Standard or 2 over 1 game forcing, might proceed as follows:

1♠

2NT = Jacoby, showing 4 spades, balanced hand, 13+ HCP

3♥ = singleton or void in hearts

3♠ = waiting, asking opener to cue-bid

4♣ = 1st or 2nd round control

4NT = Roman Key Card Blackwood

5♦ = 0 or 3 keycard (1430)

5♥ = asking for the ♠Q and any other outside kings

6♣ = showing the ♠Q and ♣K

6♠ = to play (some pairs might arrive at 6NT at matchpoints)

Counting tricks there are: 5 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, and 2 clubs, totaling 12 tricks.

However, how many tricks can be made if **diamonds** are trumps (the 4-3 fit)?

5 spades, 2 hearts (ruffing 1 heart), 4 diamonds, and 2 clubs, totaling 13 tricks.

There is a sequence of bidding, playing Standard American or 2 over 1 game forcing, which would have the partnership arrive at 7♦.

Would you and your partner arrive at 7♦ with these two hands? Something to think about.

Get Well Wishes

Brooklynites
Dorene Christmas

Westbury
Wilma Alexander
Ted Cauliffe
Thomas Holloway
Anthony Toran
Mayer Wiesen



Bayview
Rudy Cummings
Phyllis Jones

Mount Vernon
Eugenia Bye
Anderson Jones



*Don't leave home
without it!*



Condolences

Bayview

Family of Eva DeLeon
Family of Harold Edwards

Co-op City

Queenie May, on the loss of her mother-in-law

Cosmopolitan

Family of Marcus Francis
Family of Harvey Stone
Cheryll Jones, on the loss of her mother

Mount Vernon

Viola Porter, on the loss of her sister
Family of Louise Shaw

Springfield

Edward Ward, on the loss of his daughter
Family of Jerry Cunningham
Sharon Fox, on the loss of her nephew

Triangle

Family of Dorothy Haime
Minnie Goka, on the loss of her sister
and brother-in-law

Twilight

Kenneth Thomas, on the loss of his sister
Paul Watford, on the loss of his brother
Family of Deloris Crosse



JULY

BAYVIEW

Valerie Brooks
Rudy Cummings
Phyllis Jones

COSMO

Annetta Wallace
Lois Wright

BROOKLYNITES

Aquilla Middleton
Mildred Adams
Donna Harris-Bowman
Patricia Campbell-Jones

CO-OP CITY

Vivian Edwards
Carlyn Jones
Estelle Richmond
Dorothy Smith

MOUNT VERNON

Leonard Hawthorne
Nathalie McFarlane
Gladys Smith

JET SETTER

Marjorie Davis

WESTBURY

Denise Thompson

AUGUST

BROOKLYNITES

Roxie McKoy
Consuelo Tomlinson
Norma Holder

COSMO

Fitz Fraser
Patricia Jackson
Paula Joseph
Edna Moses
Ronald Prester

CO-OP CITY

Dolores Davis
William Fairley

JET SETTER

Calvin Morris
Tom Daly

MOUNT VERNON

Alfred Knight
Viola Porter

SEPTEMBER

BROOKLYNITES

Lois Francis
Andrea Flateau
Dianne Lawrence

COSMO

Philippe Gerdes

JET SETTER

Devora Sconiers

CO-OP CITY

Jannie Smith

MOUNT VERNON

Lorraine Hinds



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THE FOUNDATION ABAECF, INC

PLAY TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

www.bridgebase.com

EVERY SATURDAY AT 11 AM EDT

Bridge Base Online

Social play. ACBL Games. Tournaments. Solitaire.

Play bridge online at

www.bridgebase.com

Earn points at an ABA Tournament

Daily at 11 am, 5:30 pm, 8 pm and 11 pm

Play with your partner or a robot

**EARN BIG POINTS
FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
5:30 PM EDT**



PLEASE JOIN US!

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 11 AM

**BRING YOUR PARTNER
PLAY BRIDGE ON BBO**

**SUPPORT THE
COMMUNITY BRIDGE HOME
METROPOLITAN BRIDGE UNIT
OF NEW YORK**

To register, visit bridgebase.com
Playing Fee \$2



**AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
EASTERN SECTION**



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**Submissions for the
October 2020 issue
are due September 15**

Thank you to our reporters.

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Annetta Wallace **718.723.3983**

Eastern Section
American Bridge Association

www.abaeas.org
www.ababridge.org



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TO: