



# THE CONSUMER

WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

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

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

October 2023



## President's Message

By Marcia Demos

When I was very young, I used to play card games with my sisters and my cousins whenever we could. Games like hearts, spades, pinochle, and whist kept us out of trouble in the small town of Inwood where we all grew up. It is no surprise that when I was introduced to the game of bridge, that it would become a life-long obsession for me.

Through all the changes of my life, I still live in the same small town, and I still play cards, now playing bridge, whenever I can.

Most of the travel that I have done in this country I have done because of bridge tournaments. I have played as far west as California, as far south as Florida, and Austin, Texas is a place I have gone to for bridge more than a few times.

Before I retired, I worked as a manager for the U.S Postal Service and also the NYC Department of Social Services. Despite my years in management, I cannot seem to manage a hand of bridge as well as I would like to. My best and longest partnership has been with John, my husband of 45 years, and the MBU has become part of our family and there is no better family in the world.

Our AAA tournament is only weeks away and players from around the country, love to come. Let's show them that the MBU still has the best game in town.

See you around the table!

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023**

**[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)**

**JULY 21, 2023**

**QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

## AAA Fundraiser

By Dolores Watson



It was a great afternoon on August 29 when family and friends came out in numbers to support the Metropolitan Bridge Unit of New York. The event was a BBQ fundraiser to benefit the December AAA Tournament in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The event started with our version of the game show "Let's Make a Deal" hosted by Christian Baxter. Guests purchased raffle tickets and the lucky holders of the tickets drawn played the game. Boxes of various sizes, shapes, and colors contained the "Deals" and the "Zonks" for each round. As in the TV game show, contestants were given clues as to what might be inside the numbered boxes. Among the prizes won were a 43 inch color TV, a digital notepad, cash, and of course, a "Zonk."

The event's highlight was the Silent Auction of an outstanding selection of over 40 items donated by our bridge members. All items were displayed on tables with a small card that included the donor's name, the item's description, and the starting bid. The excitement was tremendous, and the competition was intense as the auction proceeded through the purchase of each item. Payment for goods was made by cash, check or Zelle. Rita Thompson produced a pictorial catalog featuring each item, including the description, donor, and estimated value. The auction showcased art paintings, jewelry, small kitchen appliances, designer bags, home decorations, bed/chair throws and more. The highest estimated value was a sheared mink vest at \$950 and a watch at \$600. Most items fell within the range of \$20 to \$45.

Much appreciation was expressed to the Fundraiser Planning Committee and the team of others who worked diligently to make the AAA fundraiser successful. President Marcia Demos thanked family and friends for supporting the event. She encouraged everyone interested in learning to play bridge to attend our free weekly bridge lessons.



## Outstanding Teamwork

By Beverly Session-Kelly, Co-Chair

The Community Bridge Home was at capacity as so many came out for the MBU sponsored BBQ luncheon fundraiser on August 29, 2023, to benefit the AAA Tournament at Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey this December. **Co-Chair Marilyn Legall** and our team planned for months to make this event successful. **Patricia Binyard**, head fundraiser, collected payments for the Silent Auction. Thank you to **Patricia Jackson, Raye Liverpool** and **Philippe Gerdes**. We want to thank **Rita Thompson** for the beautiful Silent Auction Catalog and her fabulous donations. A special shout out to **Valerie Brooks, Victoria Williams, Paula Joseph, Marion Mercer, Cheryl Jones** and **Steven Bond** for their contributions and assistance. And of course, thanks to all who donated items for the Silent Auction.

## Bayview Breeze

By Valerie Brooks

Happy fall, Family, and thank you to all who attend our Tuesday club games.

Thumbs up to the AAA BBQ Fundraiser Committee for a fun and hugely successful event.

SAVE THE DATE - We will kick off the holiday season with our Pre-Thanksgiving C Game:

Date: Tuesday, November 7th  
Lunch: 11 am  
Game Time: 12 pm

Plan to attend classes during November to help you prepare for our AAA event – December 5-8.

Happy birthday to Delores Brooks (October 6<sup>th</sup>) and Marilyn Legall (December 27<sup>th</sup>). Warm get well wishes to our own Rudy Cummings.

Stay safe and see you in Atlantic City!

## Pretty Colored Leaves Are About to Fall in Brooklyn

By Lois Francis

Thanks to MBU President Marcia Demos, Brooklynites hosted a first-ever MBU approved Nationwide game on behalf of the Unit. Accept our gratitude to all who patronized that game. We deeply regret that many of you could not attend the Nationwide game due to flash flooding which deterred different modes of transportation. We were grateful for the seven full tables of players who made it including the Eastern Section VP, the President and Secretary of the MBU, and several bridge club Presidents. Brooklynites invite all to attend our upcoming "B" game on October 13, 2023 to support the UNCF.

We are happy that the older Brooklyn bridge club is back in play and pleased that Brooklynites and Twilight players are patronizing each other. Our President is busy directing the Triangle DBC game in Harlem on Wednesdays, playing days shared by Twilight. Best wishes for success to Triangle DBC on a comeback "C" game on November 1st. Clubs are helping each other, as the MBU President suggested they should.

## Cosmopolitan DBC

By Steven Bond

We again want to thank all of you who support COSMO by attending our games regularly. It's always fun to see friends who have returned to the tables for in-person bridge.

Congratulations to all those who earned points at the Summer National.

In October, we will hold an Anniversary "C" Game on the 19<sup>th</sup>. After checking out some old records, it seems that COSMO can celebrate being 63 years old. As usual, lunch will be at 11:15 am, and game time at 12 noon. We will also take this opportunity to acknowledge the graduates of The Bridge Basics classes conducted by Annetta Wallace. We look forward to celebrating with all of you.

Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays in October, Steven Bond; November, Diane Edgerton-Norman; and December, John Demos.

As life has settled into a "new" normal, we still need to remember to take care and be safe.





## Jet Setter DBC

By Beverly Session-Kelly

When I was working, I loved the fall because of all the holidays in October, November and December. Now that I'm retired, I still love the fall because it's a slow time for me and a time to catch up and visit with family and friends. I hope this upcoming season is filled with bridge, family and friends.

We wish Yvonne Ebea a speedy recovery. We hope to see Minnie Hagans back in action soon as she has been under the weather. They both are sorely missed.

## DBC of Mount Vernon

By Rita Thompson



Jean DeVeaux, our beloved friend and a member of the DBC of Mount Vernon for many years, passed away recently. Jean was an enthusiastic bridge player and strong supporter of the ABA. Over the years, she has worked on many committees, served as our club president and as vice president of the Metropolitan Bridge Unit. Most recently, as a member of the DBCMV Scholarship Committee, she actively participated in the selection and vetting of candidates for 2023 during a time we now know she was not feeling up to par. Jean was known to be a tireless fundraiser for the Sickle Cell Foundation and she often arranged special games to support it. While there are many things we will remember Jean for, what we will miss the most is her friendly and fun demeanor as well as the smiling face we see here at DBCMV's Halloween-themed "C" game last year.

## Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

Welcome back from a summer of fun and relaxation. You're invited to attend our weekly classes with Annetta Wallace, Thursdays at 10:00 am, followed by Springfield's game at noon.

Happy birthday Sandra Surita, October 17th, and to Dolores Watson, October 25th. May they enjoy many more healthy and happy birthdays.

Our "youngest" member, Julia Rinehardt, says hello to everyone. We extend our warm wishes to her as well.

We're all very happy for our MBU President and club member Marcia Demos, and husband, John Demos, who are both doing well and are out playing after successful recovery from surgery. Please continue to keep President Marion Mercer and husband, John, in your prayers.

## Triangle DBC

By Gwen Leverett

Triangle has elected Mrs. Bernice Williams as our interim president. The membership continues pushing forward in our endeavor to spread our love of playing bridge. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating our **Come Back Big Points "C" Game on November 1** at 10:30 am. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## Twilight DBC

By Jesse Palmer

On September 14<sup>th</sup> my wife and I celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Birthday greetings to Doris Douglas (October), Clara Kears, Jesse Palmer and Carole Smith (November), Sharon Fox and Paul Watford (December).

We would like to thank everyone that supported us in our reopening after Covid. We have been averaging five to six tables per session. Please continue to support us at our new location.

## Westbury DBC

By Patricia Binyard

Hello, bridge family and welcome to fall. What a wonderful time of the year. The leaves are changing and shedding their colorful dress. Winter is approaching with the most wonderful holidays before us.

Our club has been very busy with the opening of our new season on Sunday, September 17th, and the start of our new classes for beginner and intermediate players on September 20th.

We will continue to meet on Sundays with collations starting at 1 pm and game at 2 pm. An added benefit is that our most illustrious member, Errol Grant, will be giving best in class instructions an hour before the official start of our game. As the days get shorter, we will move our time up one hour.

Games and classes will be held at the 'Yes We Can' Center at 141 Garden Street, Westbury, New York. Bridge classes will



continue on Wednesday with beginner classes from 10 am – 11 am and intermediate classes from 11 am – 1 pm.

Summer was a difficult time for our club. We lost two of our cherished members, Barbara Wingate and Theodore (Ted) Conliffe. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Our club wishes you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a beautiful holiday season.

## NEW PLAYERS' CORNER

### TIPS AND HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW PLAYERS

#### THE CONVENTION CARD

Bridge is a unique game in that we tell our opponents what we are doing and then they may use that information to prevent us from achieving our goal. Our opponents have the right to know what our general bidding style is and if we have any special agreements. Agreements cannot be concealed.

Your completed convention card gives an outline of the bidding system used by your partnership in the game. It includes all special agreements and/or conventions used by the partnership. When you play bridge your convention card must be accessible to your opponents. A beneficial effect of completing a convention card is to ensure that both members of the partnership are on the same page.

Some general rules for convention cards are:

- ♦ A pair must have two identical cards on the table.
- ♦ If a pair does not comply with the above, they may only play a standard system.
- ♦ The pair must comply within one round.
- ♦ The penalty for non-compliance is 1/6 of a board for each board played.
- ♦ Players may not look at their own convention cards during the auction or play of a hand.
- ♦ Players may look at the opponent's convention card before the auction starts and at their turn to call/play.

The American Bridge Association uses the American Contract Bridge League's convention card in all face-to-face games. The card includes sections for the names of the players, general approach, and some common agreements. The right-hand side of the card is designed for offensive bidding and the left-hand side for defensive bidding. All items printed in black must be completed. When sections printed in blue are completed, they must be announced, items in red require an alert. For convenience the back of the convention card includes a private score card.

## Call the Director

By Annetta Wallace

The director's job is to help players understand the laws, make rulings that permit play to continue, and impose penalties as permitted or required by the laws. When you fail to call the director at the time of an infraction, you may be giving up some of your rights for redress later.

Players should not be offended when another player calls the director. One does not call the director on the opponents. One calls the director to assess options associated with irregularities, and to do so from an unbiased perspective. The director has the responsibility to ensure that all players at the table understand the law as it applies to the situation, to make a ruling that permits play to continue. Players can help by identifying potential infractions in a factual, and not an accusatory, manner.

Players sometimes believe that if they are damaged after the opponents have failed to alert, or had a bidding misunderstanding, they are entitled to relief. This is partially true; one must be able to demonstrate that the damage was a consequence of the infraction.

If one player makes a bid that departs from partnership agreement, regardless of damage, the law permits no adjustment as long as this is not a regular occurrence. Frequent departure from partnership understanding can create partnership agreements that must be disclosed to the opponents. If the bid reflects partnership agreement and the alert or explanation were in error, then the law allows an adjustment. This adjustment is not automatic; the damage must be proven. The connection between the damage and the infraction must be demonstrable.

If partner has given misinformation and the offending side is declaring, the law requires that the director be informed before the opening lead. If the offending side is defending, play of the hand must be completed before the director is called.

The director can also help if another player is doing something that prevents you from enjoying your game. A discreet word to the director will enable him/her to address the situation.

Bridge is a very competitive activity. All the players are trying their best to win and sometimes problems do occur. The director is the best person to deal with these problems and the director is also the only person permitted by the laws to do so. Players shouldn't enforce rules. That's the director's job. Call the director.

*The Consumer, October 2019*



## Bridge Club Schedule

SUNDAY	WESTBURY	Open at 1 pm Light Snack Game at 2 pm	"Yes We Can" Community Center 141 Gardner Street Westbury, NY 11590
MONDAY	MOUNT VERNON	Lunch at 12:30 pm Lesson at 1 pm Game at 2 pm	Vernon Manor 30 Ehrbar Avenue Mount Vernon, NY 10552
TUESDAY	BAYVIEW & JET SETTERS	Open at 11 am Light Snack Game at 12 pm	Community Bridge Home 120-50 Springfield Blvd Cambria Heights, NY 11411
WEDNESDAY	TRIANGLE	Open at 10 am Game at 10:30 am Lunch \$1.50	Central Harlem Senior Center 210 West 131st Street New York, NY 10027
First & Third WEDNESDAY	TWILIGHT	12:15 pm Lunch (\$1) Game at 1 pm	Fort Greene Senior Center 196 Albany Avenue Brooklyn, NY
THURSDAY	COSMO & SPRINGFIELD	Open at 11 am Light Snack/Lunch Game at 12 pm	Community Bridge Home 120-50 Springfield Blvd Cambria Heights, NY 11411
FRIDAY	BROOKLYNITES	Lunch at noon Game at 12:30 pm	625 Quincy Street, 1st Floor Brooklyn, NY 11221

## Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 6-9	EASTERN SECTION COLUMBUS DAY TOURNAMENT MORRISVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 13	BROOKLYNITES DBC UNCF GAME
OCTOBER 24	MBU QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING COMMUNITY BRIDGE HOME
OCTOBER 30	DBC OF MOUNT VERNON HALLOWEEN "C" GAME
NOVEMBER 1	TRIANGLE DBC BIG POINTS "C" GAME
NOVEMBER 7	BAYVIEW DBC PRE-THANKSGIVING "C" GAME
DECEMBER 4-7	MBU "AAA" TOURNAMENT ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 18	DBC OF MOUNT VERNON HOLIDAY "C" GAME
APRIL 6-12, 2024	ABA SPRING NATIONAL TOURNAMENT HANOVER, MARYLAND
MAY 20-23, 2024	EASTERN SECTION SPRING TOURNAMENT ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

## What do bridge players do in their spare time?



Well, it seems there's one who writes books. **Christian Baxter** from the **Bayview Duplicate Bridge Club** is a published author. "Bossy Storms With Keys: Sophomore Year" by Xander Straker (Christian's "pen" name) is available on Amazon. The release of a second book is imminent.

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**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2024  
ISSUE ARE DUE DECEMBER 10**





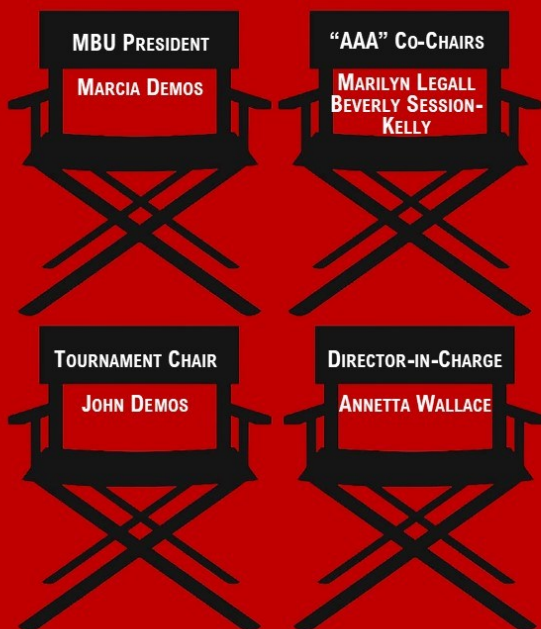
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Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.



**RESORTS CASINO HOTEL**  
1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
Room Rate: \$54+taxes/fees (double occ)  
1.609.340.6300 ♦ Group Code: VAAA23  
Reservation Deadline: November 21, 2023



## MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

2:00 pm Headquarters Benefit Game  
7:00 pm Open Pairs Game

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00 am Open Pairs Game  
2:00 pm B-A-M (Session 1)  
2:00 pm Side Game  
5:00 pm New Players' Seminar  
7:00 pm B-A-M (Session 2)  
7:00 pm Side Game

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

11:00 am Awards Brunch  
2:00 pm Open Pairs Game (Session 1)  
2:00 pm Side Game  
7:00 pm Open Pairs Game (Session 2)  
7:00 pm Side Game

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 am Open Pairs Game





## Get Well Wishes

**Bayview**  
Rudy Cummings  
Louise Wilson

**Jet Setter**  
Yvonne Ebea



**Mount Vernon**  
Lorelei Blackman

**Triangle**  
Julius Fields



## Condolences

*Mount Vernon*  
*To the family of Jean DeVeaux*

*Twilight*  
*To the family of Theodore Conliffe*

*Westbury*  
*To the family of Mercedes Mann*



## OCTOBER

### BAYVIEW

Delores Brooks

### BROOKLYNITES

Inez Lambert

Jane Atlas

### COSMO

Steven Bond

### MOUNT VERNON

Marcella Shelton

### SPRINGFIELD

Liam Samples

Sandra Surita

Dolores Watson

### TWILIGHT

Doris Douglas

### WESTBURY

Edna Boothe

Doris Duperly

Cynthia Bohanan

## NOVEMBER

### BROOKLYNITES

Connie Freeman

Dorene Christmas

### JET SETTER

Victoria Williams

### MOUNT VERNON

Ersaline Callender

Susan Samtur

Rita Thompson

### COSMO

Dianne Edgerton-Norman

### TRIANGLE

Allen Morton

Betsy Sola

### TWILIGHT

Clara Kearse

Jesse Palmer

Carole Smith

## DECEMBER

### BAYVIEW

Marilyn Legall

Joan Sanders

### BROOKLYNITES

Leon Roland

Patricia Williams

### COSMO

John Demos

### JET SETTER

Yvonne Ebea

### MOUNT VERNON

Gloria Hobbs

Elinor Williams

William Wood

### TRIANGLE

Lorraine Cleaton

### TWILIGHT

Sharon Lucas

Paul Watford





## METROPOLITAN BRIDGE UNIT

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