

THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: The North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club is stronger than ever due to the members who readily volunteer to help in all situations. Our table numbers keep growing, and the participants keep smiling! Thank you to all who make our club so great.

Marlene Hino, President, e-mail marleneh25@verizon.net

Club Manager's Message: Our club is going strong, with good attendance and lots of support from a host of volunteers keeping our supplies up to date. Elaine Clair, Pat Andrews, Roger Milton, Sue Bailey, Sandy Sill and Sharon Weintrob (and my apologies if I missed anyone) work silently behind the scenes to make sure that our needed supplies are on hand. Thank you all for your support - players and volunteers.

NAP qualification games will be held in June, July, and August. Due to ACBL rule changes, we will not be holding qualification games during any of the morning sessions. Players wishing to qualify can attend one of the noon sessions or the Tuesday evening session. The qualification games are stratified, so you will have a good chance of qualifying.

Club championship games will be held in June. Check the calendar for exact dates. These games award extra points and there is no additional game fee.

The Valley Forge regional will be the week of June 27 to July 3. NP will definitely hold games on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning and Friday morning. The Wednesday and Thursday games are contingent on finding a director to run the game, which currently looks promising. This will become definitive early in June. There will be no Tuesday evening or Friday evening game that week. We encourage you to attend the regional games.

Larry Umphlet, Club Manager, e-mail ichor0@verizon.net

Something to Smile About #1 - What is the shortest distance between two points? General population - A straight Line; Bridge players - A path that involves the rest room, the refreshment table, and a diversion to explain to partner how to play the game properly.



Masterpoint Milestones:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Richard Stefanowicz | Junior Life Master | Eileen Stefanowicz | Junior Life Master |
| James O'Brien | Junior Life Master | Lee Guo | Junior Life Master |
| Linda Moulton | Junior Life Master | Judith Busch | Club Life Master |
| Robert Pickard | Club Life Master | Judy Horrocks | Club Life Master |
| James O'Brien | Sectional Life Master | Margot Lebovitz | Sectional Life Master |

Sherri Lampert
Ceil Morton
Susan Morse
Joyce Levin
Carole Witt
Pat Andrews

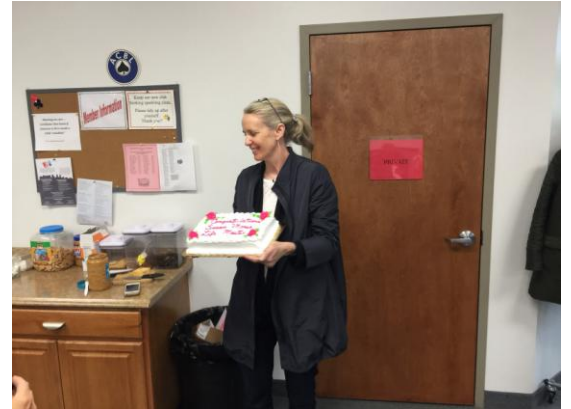
Sectional Life Master
Regional Life Master
Life Master
Life Master
Bronze Life Master
Bronze Life Master

Pradip Khan
Susan Anthony
Luigi Lenaz
James Marino
Betty Lyons
Pat Drake

Regional Life Master
Adv. NABC Master
Life Master
Life Master
Bronze Life Master
Bronze Life Master



Congratulations to Luigi (Gino) Lensaz on becoming a new Life Master.



Congratulations to Susan Morse on becoming a new Life Master.



Congratulations to Joyce Levin on becoming a new Life Master.



Congratulations to James Marino on becoming a new Life Master.

Sunshine: Please welcome our new members: Amy Petersen, Robert Fegan, Virginia Samhoury, Margo Lebovitz, Kathy Daddarro, Rhoda Kauffman, Beth Junkin, Lee Weiss, Jack Mendelsohn, Ray Boutin, Donald Baker, Karen Gold, Barry Shinberg, Judi Shinberg, Milind Vaze, Joan Schwerin, Leah Halpern, Linda Sherr, Ron Sherr, David Anthony, Joan Regenbogen. and Harry Tweedie.

Birthday greetings go to all of you who are celebrating in June, July, August, and September. The list is too long to publish here in the newsletter. So, check out the bulletin board at the club and wish your friends a "Happy Birthday."

Something to Smile About #2 - What is the ideal temperature for the brain to function? General population - 61 degrees; Bridge players - 34 degree for males and 92 degree for females.

Charity Games: The Club's two charities this year will be the Variety Club Camp and Development Center of Philadelphia located on Potshop Road, Worcester, PA. and the SPCA of Montgomery County. All proceeds from our "Charity Games" will be given to these worthwhile organizations.

Miscellaneous: Need a partner? Check out the "**Partnership Board**" located to the left as you walk into the club. When you need a partner, post a note on the bulletin board and maybe someone will be able to play with you on the day you want a partner.

Our ***Club Manager Larry Umplet*** has a few suggestions to make our games run a little more smoothly when we play bridge at the club.

Playing N/S incurs some responsibilities in addition to scoring. N/S has the primary responsibility for passing boards and maintaining the playing conditions at the table. At the end of the game, N/S is responsible for removing trash from their playing area. E/W should assist by not leaving trash at the table when they leave. Also, please dump cups, cans and bottles into the sink before discarding.

At the end of the round N/S should be passing the boards to the next table in a timely manner. If the director is moving boards for you, that is a bonus. It is not the director's responsibility to do so. (Hint: if the director is moving boards for you, check the clock.)

Another suggestion: the board currently in play should be the only board on the table. If by chance you run a little late, you will not be interrupted when the director takes a board for the next table.

Finally, there are still too many post-mortem discussions occurring. It is extremely irritating to have N/S argue when the score has not yet been entered, or to have E/W argue in deference of verifying the score. If you feel you must discuss some aspect of the bidding or play with your partner, do so at the end of the round, IF you have time. Otherwise wait until the end of the game. Under no circumstances should any such discussion carry on to the next table.

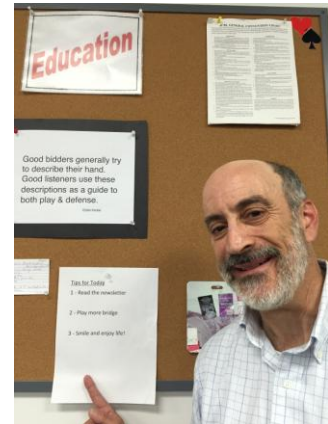
Please note that if a pair is clarifying their agreements, that is not considered a post-mortem. Such discussion should take only a short time, and the other pair should not object.

Education Program: The "2/1 Game Force" class starts in June. The class is filled, but John Dickenson will be offering additional classes in the fall. Please check the club's website for details.



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Human Interest Feature: *Food For Thought...* Or is it that I thought of food? For me, plan A is eating food and plan B is talking about food. With this in mind, what's a bridge game without snacks? Not much of a game, right? I don't eat too much when I play. But if I need a chocolate fix, I know where to go and thank goodness there's usually something of interest available. It's a good thing no one has tried to eat the clock - it's very time consuming! What should you eat - the chocolates, the pretzels, the chips, the doughnuts or whatever else is sitting there? All this food and we still get to play competitive bridge. Are we lucky or what? This reminds me of my friend who quit her job at the doughnut factory. She was fed up with the "hole" business! I guess she thought of food too.



On the other side of the room from the food is our Education Board. Have you looked at it lately? My contribution to the Education Board is to share one of my favorite techniques - the Elvis Presley Coup. This happens when your left-hand opponent leads low away from his or her AQxxx into your Kx. With this play, the King is no longer dead! Thank you, thank you very much!

I'll bet you're ready for some interviews now. Since this is an election year, I made an attempt to be politically correct with the interview selection process. This edition's interviews are with Marlene Hino, our Club President, and Susan Morse, the winner of this year's National Mini-McKenney award. Marlene is involved with making our bridge club top notch, while Susan not only played a lot of bridge last year, but also scored a ton of points during her journey (I needed a calculator just to read about her masterpoints!). I hope you enjoy reading the interviews. Also, good luck in your next bridge game!



Michael Carver, Human Interest Feature Reporter

Marlene Hino: Marlene was born and raised in the Washington, D.C. area. She worked summers for various government agencies - therefore so no need for a college education. Upon completing high school she got a job working for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). Her boss left D.C. to study the Russian school system and instructed Marlene to answer the phones and respond to correspondence. The responsibilities were easy and resulted in her modeling for a local store at lunch break and catching up on the latest novels in the afternoon. Marlene's father was an advocate of education and insisted she go to college. Being a willful teenager she chose Marquette University (as far away from home as possible). Upon completing two years of college (AA degree) she worked that summer for HEW and was

offered full time employment. Dad insisted on a four-year degree. A transfer to George Washington University guaranteed graduation in four years with a degree in elementary education. She became a teacher. At GW Marlene met Ed Hino and married him a year after graduation. They have been married 54 years and have three children and nine grandchildren.



Q - How did you start playing bridge?

A - My family were card players - mostly poker but some bridge.

Q - What led you to play duplicate?

A - Our "kitchen" bridge group had five of us who rotated at a local bridge game. On my off week, Ginny Tinner expressed an interest in playing. We have been playing at North Penn for over 20 years.

Q - What was one of your favorite bridge memories?

A - Ginny and I driving to Allentown and getting our silver points to become Life Masters together.

Q - Any Presidential comments for us?

A - Keep playing and enjoying it! Encourage beginners and be nice to your partner. We have one of the friendliest games in the area and hopefully it will continue for many years. Live, laugh, love and play bridge!

Susan Morse: Susan grew up in Philadelphia, but lived two years in Ireland from age six to eight. Early schooling was at Montessori starting at Ravenhill Academy in East Falls. Other schools attended were: Springside School, Germantown Friends, Mount St. Joseph's and a Boarding School called St. George's in Newport Rhode Island for the last two years of high school. Then she was off to Williams College. After college she started acting. Also, after completing college, she was working as a bartender (don't get me started on bartender jokes) and met her husband who was working on a play. They married a year later and had three children. During their time living in California, their house was destroyed by an earthquake. A move back east seemed like a real good idea and very family-oriented. Susan is currently researching her third memoir. The two books she has written are: *"The Habit"* (a Wall Street Journal Bestseller) and *"The Dog Stays in the Picture"*. She also enjoys needlepoint and quilting when she's not playing bridge.



Q - How did you start playing bridge?

A - When she was 11 her sister included her to play bridge on nights when their parents were out. When they played bridge she was the fourth. Then ten years later she was playing hearts with friends, and she was asked to fill in for a bridge game. She didn't think she would like it, but she liked the friends. Finally, playing Bridge Baron on her computer sealed the deal - the switch flipped. She played a lot afterwards.

Q - What led you to play duplicate?

A - As an author, she wanted to write a memoir about her first two years in the world of competitive bridge. She thought it might be interesting to set a specific goal for herself, but wasn't sure how many points to set for a two-year goal. A friend who played a little duplicate suggested 20 points was reasonable. Alison Shoemaker agreed to take Susan to her first duplicate game at Raffles and she scored points! As a side note, when she gets points she never

thinks "I got points" or "I won." For Susan it's always a partnership (the National Mini-McKenney race was another matter). She then traveled to the Nationals and Bermuda for bridge. After playing for two months she had her 20 points. She won the Newcomer trophy and was informed she was in the running for the National Mini-McKinney. There were well over 17,000 people competing in her category - all of them started 2015 with between 5 - 20 masterpoints. Susan continued to play. Bill Bauer, her mentor, guided her to get the most points out of her play. Bill and Alison deserve a lot of credit for her success. At times it became very trying. During one month she played 35 games. Then in mid-November her #1 challenger in the National Mini-McKinney disappeared/stopped playing for about six weeks, then returned in late December, which added to the drama. As we know, she caught up and passed him!! The bonus was that the race motivated her to push hard enough to actually become a Life Master in less than two years, not just earn 20 points. Susan managed to reach Life Master in Gatlinburg, 521 days after joining the ACBL.

Q - Any advice for others on going for the National Mini-McKinney?

A - Know you want to do it on January 1st and plan to play a lot. Go to Regional's; go to big point games and prioritize going to games with lots of tables. Plan to play 30 games a month with family support. Also, have a good five or six people to play with. One rule I set for myself was to reach these goals without ever hiring any pros. I stuck to that and played mostly with intermediates and novices like myself. But I learned an awful lot when kindly given the chance to play up, especially with Bill Bauer, Deb Crisfield, John Dickenson and other good players. The final piece of advice Susan didn't share is that you have to actually play well enough to score points when you play. Susan did this part quite well!

Q - What was one of your favorite bridge memories?

A - It was getting my first gold points. I was playing in New Orleans at the Nationals in the first session of a Gold Rush game. I was really tired and looked up at the standings posted before the last round. I saw my name at the top! I won the event and was thrilled!!

HIF Reporter comment - When I said "don't get me started on bartender jokes"..... A man walks into a bar with a piece of asphalt under his arm. He looks at the bartender and says "I'll have a beer and one for the road." LOL!

Something to Smile About #3 - What is the average reaction time for adults? General population - 0.3 seconds (294 milliseconds); Bridge players - 1.61 minutes (when required to discard on a trick).



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19 tables at a recent Tuesday morning game at North Penn Bridge Club.