

# THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

## NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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**President's Message:** The North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club is proposing some by-law changes. They are posted on the bulletin board. Please take some time and read them.

All is well at the bridge club. We have purchased many celebratory cakes. Congratulations to all of you, and may we eat a lot of cake in the future!!

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

**Club Manager's Message:** The club recently held a cleaning day which was well attended and which is covered in a separate article in this newsletter. Thanks to all who participated and especially to those who initiated and coordinated the effort.

*Bucky Sydnor* donated a copy of "The Encyclopedia of Bridge" which will be a welcome addition to our library. Thank you Bucky!

A rack for hanging purses was installed and seems to be getting some use. An issue that I must unfortunately address again is cell phones. There are way too many instances of cell phones audibly ringing during the game. When or before you arrive at the club, make a habit of either "powering off" or "muting" your phone. There will, of course, be instances where individuals may be expecting important calls. For these situations, keep your phone with you and on "mute." When the call comes, excuse yourself from the table and move to the lobby to hold the conversation. Thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

*Larry Umphlet, Club Manager, e-mail [ichor0@verizon.net](mailto:ichor0@verizon.net)*

**Nominations:** Elections will be held the week of December 12 at the club. There are three director positions available for a three-year term (January 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2019). Our directors provide significant contributions to the operation of our club. If you would like to be an *active* participant on *the Board of Governors*, please contact Sue Bailey at 215-699-9036, e-mail her at [bailey.sue@gmail.com](mailto:bailey.sue@gmail.com), or speak with her at the club by Nov. 1.

**Holiday Parties:** This year's holiday parties will be held the week of December 12 (Monday through Friday night). A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board for appetizers, salads, desserts, etc. A main dish will be provided by the club. (Board of Governors election is the same week.)



### **Member Achievements:**

Carole Pursell	Junior Master	Kathy Vogel	Junior Master
Patricia Mueller	Junior Master	Dale Scafuro	Junior Master
Gladys Firing	Club Master	Mary McGready	Club Master
Beth Junkin	Sectional Master	Judy Lyons	Sectional Master
Belle Miller	Sectional Master	David Chinn	Sectional Master

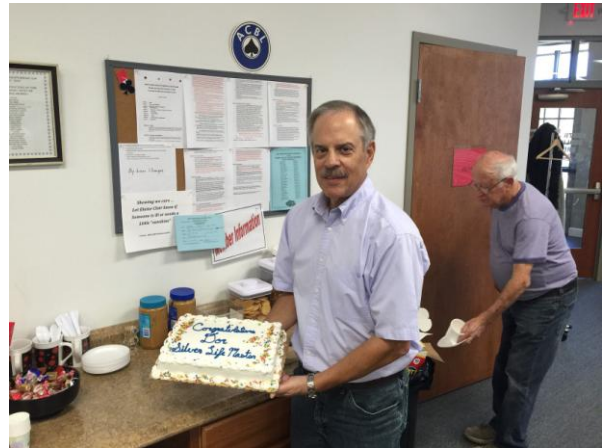
P. J. Ingram Regional Master  
 Richard Godshall Regional Master  
 Kay Garrity Regional Master  
 Lisa Mita NABC Master  
 Michael Freedman NABC Master  
 Carole Bishop Life Master  
 Susan Bailey Bronze Life Master  
 James Allen Bronze Life Master  
 Don Smolen Silver Life Master  
 Carol Witty Ruby Life Master  
 Alvaro Ronderos Sapphire Life Master

William Petkum Regional Master  
 Donald Hockman Regional Master  
 Donna Zebley Regional Master  
 Prem Premakumar NABC Master  
 David Hallman Life Master  
 Kathleen Marino Life Master  
 Carole Bishop Bronze Life Master  
 Barbara Gordon Silver Life Master  
 Evelyn Melchiorre Silver Life Master  
 Estelle Ronderos Sapphire Life Master

The North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club honors members who've attained Life Master, Silver Life Master, Gold Life Master, Diamond Life Master, Emerald Life Master, Platinum Life Master, and Grand Life Master. Congratulations to our newest achievers!!



**Kathy Marino  
Life Master**



**Don Smolen  
Silver Life Master**



**David Hallman  
Life Master**



**Barbara Gordon  
Silver Life Master**



**Carole Bishop**  
**Life Master**

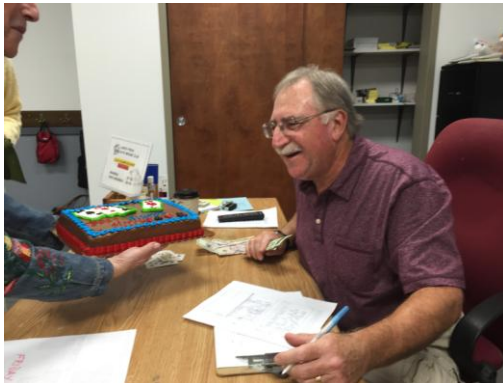


**Evelyn Melchiorre**  
**Silver Life Master**

**Sunshine:** *Please welcome our newest members* - Joseph Miller, John Barton, Prem Premakumar, Tom Foerster, Tom Nailos, Amelia Marolina, Marion Giordan, Karol Schieffer, Robert Goldblum, Charlie Whipple, Lynne Whipple, Cheryl Berman, Bobbie Bliss, Larry Bliss, David Anthony, Ellie Goodman, Ursula Schaufler, Pauline Sherry, Betsy Cutler, Renee Mitchell, Donalee Griswold, and Lily Walton.

Our condolences to **Bill Krysiak's** and **Simone Perloff's** family and friends - two club members who passed away recently....Bill in August and Simone in September. **Ed Leach's wife** passed away in June. George Webber reported that **Bob Pollsen** died in Texas on June 27, 2015. Bob was a club director for many years when the bridge club was located at "The Moose" on Walnut Street in Lansdale. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

**"Birthday"** greetings go to all of you who are celebrating in October, November, December and January. The list is too long to publish here in the newsletter. So, check the bulletin board and wish your friends a "Happy Birthday."



**Mitch Snyder**, our I/N director on Tuesday and Friday mornings underwent heart surgery on September 9. He is recuperating at home for a few weeks. The Tuesday morning I/N club members presented him with a "Best Wishes" cake prior to his surgery on September 6.

After a long absence due to illness, we welcome back **Bob Umfer** to the club. Please send **Carolyn Murphy** a "get well" card as she is experiencing health problems.

**Membership Dues:** Our 2017 membership renewal drive starts December 1. You have already filled out a membership form. However, please ask to review your membership card to make sure it is correct and up-to-date. If your contact information changes or needs to be corrected, please drop a note in the red mailbox on the table at the back of the room. There will be a board member collecting dues during the month of December. Either hand your **\$10 dues** to her/him **or** place it in an envelope with your name on it and put it in the **RED MAILBOX** at the back of the room.



[Something to Smile About #1](#) - Q. What act normally evokes the gag response? A. Touching the soft palate in your mouth and/or a bridge partner "leading out of turn."

**By-Law Changes:** For those of you who have not noticed, posted on the bulletin board above the food counter are proposed changes to the club By-Laws. In December the membership will be voting as to whether to accept these changes. In a nutshell, the changes address the composition of the Board of Directors. The changes would provide for nine elected members, each serving three-year terms. The terms will be staggered such that three positions are up for election each year. The positions of *Club Manager* and *Club Treasurer* will be filled by the Board of Directors, and the individuals holding these positions will not also serve as an *elected* Board member. This will allow the Board of Directors to maintain a constant 11-person composition, with the *Club Manager* and *Treasurer* not subject to election by the membership or term limitations.

**Human Interest Feature:** So, how many partners do you have? This is one of those questions that should not be asked outside of the bridge world. You can figure this out. Yes, in the bridge world we have our own language. And sometimes lots of partners. There were a few times in past years that I had a "regular" partner. Now I have three semi-regular partners and at least two others who can tolerate sitting across the table from me. I feel lucky!! Before all of these great partners found me, my "regular" partner became ill and had to stop playing (please take a moment to send a healing thought to *Charlie Kulp*). We know these things happen, but my point is - don't take your partner for granted. Enjoy the time spent playing bridge with him/her. With this in mind, here are some tips for proper bridge partner care:

1. Smile a lot. Although this might make your partner smile back.
2. Check your partners nutritional needs. If you're at the snack table, check to see if your partner has fresh water or some candy. Also, if you pass my table, get me something with chocolate.
3. Have a short memory. You know what I mean. When something doesn't go quite well with your partner's game, it's time to practice forgiveness. Chocolate candy is useful here as well.
4. And most importantly, talk sports with your partner. If your partner does not find this to be useful, find my table quickly and bring something with chocolate!



This edition's interviews are with *Mitch Snyder* and *Bryna Nelson Paston*. Mitch is a life-long friend who kept me playing bridge after I "ran out of gas" playing in 2006. In the years after, he would call me to play a couple times a year in order to dust off my game. So, if you like the "Human Interest Features" in our newsletters, you can thank Mitch for keeping me involved. And, if you don't like the "Human Interest Features," it's Mitch's fault! Bryna is also a really nice person and has a great sense of humor. I hope you enjoy their interviews. Also, good luck in your next bridge game!

*Michael Carver, Human Interest Feature Reporter*

**Mitch Snyder:** Mitch was born in Philadelphia and raised in Plymouth Township. He went to school at Plymouth-Whitemarsh and attended college at Drexel. Upon graduation, he worked as a computer programmer and a large system specialist. He has a younger brother Neil and his wife Donna who also play bridge. Mitch and Donna have two daughters, two sons-in-law, one grandchild and four cats. Mitch also likes teaching bridge and seeing his students doing so well.

His other interests include golf, the Eagles, and the Phillies. Mitch forgot to mention that he used to bowl regularly and has rolled a 300 game during league play. Being that he and I bowled together for many years, I felt it was my duty to report his achievement.

Q - How did you start playing bridge?

A - I learned bridge with a group of friends who played pinochle. I also read a book on playing bridge. At work I would play lunch time bridge when a fourth was needed.

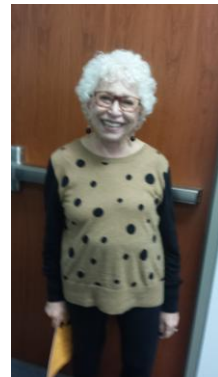
Q - What led you to duplicate?

A - In 1976 or 1977, a friend asked me to play a Sunday Swiss tournament bridge game in Philadelphia. We got points by winning the consolation game and I immediately joined the ACBL.

Q - What was one of your favorite bridge memories?

A - In 1980 I went to Lancaster for my first experience at a National. My enthusiasm built up over the early years. Then during a game, I executed an end-play and realized real card fun. I did something that was "bridge column" material and not an accident. I also enjoyed playing in Lancaster during the 1990s when I won three "knock-outs" with three different teams during one tournament!

**Bryna Nelson Paston:** Bryna was born in Mt. Carmel, Pa. but moved to State College when she was seven. Her father taught accounting and was Coordinator of Religious Affairs at Penn State University. Bryna attended PSU earning a degree in journalism and theater. After graduation, she moved to New York to work for the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency in Manhattan as a trainee. Her next job was a copywriter for the Abraham and Strauss Department Store. She still is a writer and an actor.



She's been married for 54 years and has a son and daughter and six grandchildren. Bryna has written for several local and national publications, and she wrote three children's plays. Recently, Bryna wrote and published her first book, How to Be the Perfect Grandma! When her son Michael became a father, he also became a "genius" in child-rearing, and Bryna became a "dummy." The book is based on funny stories about his rules and regulations for her. Two years ago her publisher asked her to write a companion book which became How to Be the Perfect Grandpa: Listen to Grandma! Both books are full of good advice along with a lot of chuckles.

Q - How did you start playing bridge?

A - My parents were Life Masters and played regularly. Most of my sorority sisters in college and my husband played bridge. All of that wasn't enough incentive until the day when I finally took some bridge lessons.

Q - What led you to duplicate bridge?

A - I was home with my small children all day, every day. I wanted to get out. Hatboro had a duplicate game, and there I went. It was quite an "initiation."

Q - What was one of your favorite bridge memories?

A - I fell during one of our bridge games and broke my nose. Ginny Woodbury, a retired school nurse, came to the rescue. I managed the ice treatment for my face while director Larry Umplet

stepped in to finish the game with my partner Barbara Gordon. Then it was time to go the ER. At a restaurant a week later, the waitress asked if I had a facelift even before she said hello. My answer was "Yes! and it was free!" My advice to everyone is to "stay vertical!"

**Miscellaneous:** Need a partner? Check out the "**Partnership Bulletin Board**" located at the back of the room on the left. When you want a partner, post a note on the bulletin board (cards are on the director's desk) and maybe someone will be able to play with you on the day you want a partner.

**Membership Directories:** **CLUB DIRECTORIES** are ready and available for you to pick up at the club. Please limit one per family household. If you find any incorrect information, please write a note with the correction and place it in the **RED MAILBOX**.

**From the Director's Desk:** **Revokes** are a part of bridge and should be handled just as any other irregularity. When a revoke occurs, call the Director. As a player, you don't need to know all the particulars of the law, but there are a few details of which players should be aware:

There is no penalty for a revoke until it becomes established. A revoke becomes established when either member of the offending pair plays to the trick subsequent to the trick on which the revoke occurred. In plain English, this means if you realize you have revoked and the next trick is not yet in progress, make a statement to that effect: "Oops, I revoked," or "Oh, I do have a spade." Now call the Director, but do not play any additional cards or make any changes to the trick. The Director will be aware of the fine points of the law and rule as to any changes to the revoked trick. Since you have called attention to the revoke before it has become established, there will be no revoke penalty, although there will be a penalty card.

If you do revoke and later in the hand realize that you have, you are under no obligation to point out that you have revoked. Don't worry, declarer or dummy will help with that. (Note that dummy may not bring attention to an irregularity until the end of the hand.)

When you realize an opponent has revoked, take stock of its effect on the play of the hand. Depending on the details, the revoke penalty is usually either one or two tricks. However, if the revoke prevented you from taking more tricks than provided by the penalty, the Director can assign an adjusted score to restore equity. You need to be aware of this and bring it to the Director's attention.

**Something to Smile About #2:** Did you know that the Seven of Diamonds is called the "Beer Card?" When you take the last trick with the Seven of Diamonds, your partner owes you a beer!!  
*Editor's note: It should be called the "Wine Card."*



Barry Dehlin pondering his next move during the Tuesday night bridge game.



### SPECIAL GAMES

#### North Penn NAP District Finals

Flight A – October 15 and 16 (1:00 & 6:00 and 10:30 & 2:30 p.m.) – Ami Bridge Club, Langhorne, PA

Flight B – October 22 (11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.) - Harrisburg Bridge Club, Camp Hill and Broome West Senior Center, Endwell, NY

Flight C – October 15 (10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.) – Various Clubs

#### NAP National Finals

Kansas City, Missouri March 2017

*To help defray travel expenses, 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers in each District flight receive \$700, 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers receive \$300 each, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers receive \$100 each.*



Saturday, August 13 was "Clean Up" day at the bridge club, and many members donated their time to help clean bidding boxes, bidding cards, playing cards, card tables, refrigerators, snack tables, seat cushions, etc. The club appreciates and thanks everyone who helped out that day.

*(A full-size photo of the one on the left can be seen at the club. A big "Thank You" to **Janice Arrowsmith** who arranged and created the framed collage of photographs. )*