



THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: By now our holiday celebrations are a pleasant memory. Hopefully everyone has enjoyed the food and fellowship of the club and its members. We at the North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club wish you and your family a happy, healthy and profitable new year. We hope to see all of you at the bridge table in 2017. Take care, stay warm, and keep finessing. (The country didn't get a female president, but NPDBC did!) :)

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

Club Manager's Message: 2016 was a good year for the club. We hosted 3,451.5 tables. This is an increase of 113 tables from the previous year. This the second highest table count among clubs in Unit 141: only 2.5 tables behind first place South Jersey Bridge Club. Our facility is a nice place to enjoy the game of bridge, and our players are doing an admirable job of providing and maintaining that atmosphere. Let's make our member-owned club #1 in 2017.

A comment on environmental conditions: During a typical game, there are 40 or so people in the room. As a result, the room temperature is going to rise. At some point it will become necessary to get the temperature lower by turning on the A/C. Unfortunately, our HVAC system, like most HVAC units, works by sending very cold air out into the room. It continues to do so until the overall room temperature goes down. In the process there will be areas of the room that experience a temporary cold draft. This cannot be avoided.

Evening players are aware that there has been a discussion about starting times. The board reviewed this issue and decided that there is nothing substantial to be gained by changing the start time. The Tuesday and Friday night games will continue to start at 7:30 p.m. STaC games are being held the week of February 13.

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

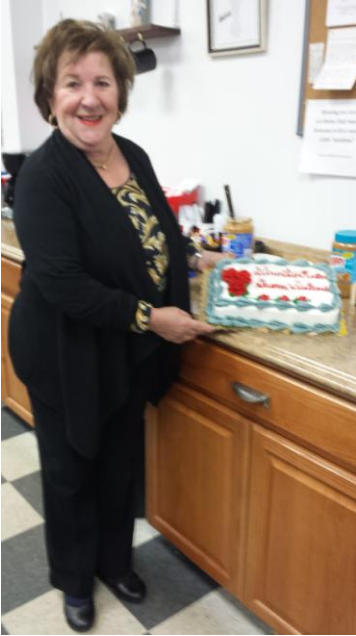


Masterpoint Milestones:

Cheryl Berman	Junior Master	Ed Heater	Club Master
Roz Fudell	Sectional Master	Marilyn Carter	Sectional Master
Lynne Whipple	Sectional Master	Sally Basch	Regional Master
Margot Lebovitz	Regional Master	Jim Miller	Regional Master
Mark Freeman	Regional Master	Sharri Lampert	Regional Master
Mary Fehnel	Regional Master	Richard Kamensky	NABC Master
Joan Regenbogen	NABC Master	Nancy Parke	NABC Master
Marsha Schwartz	NABC Master	Andrew Rosenberg	Adv. NABC Master
Alison Shoemaker	Adv. NABC Master	Christina Dowling	Life Master

Maryland Wanck	Life Master	Connie Abel	Life Master
Nick Wanck	Life Master	Ursula Schaufler	Bronze Life Master
Sharon Weintraub	Silver Life Master	Deborah Purbrick	Ruby Life Master
Arnold Kritz	Gold Life Master	Steven Gewirtzman	Gold Life Master
David Legrow	Sapphire Life Master	John Dickenson	Sapphire Life Master
Walter Bell	Sapphire Life Master		

The NP Club honors members who've achieved Life, Silver, Gold, Diamond, Emerald, Platinum, and Grand Life Masters. Congratulations to our newest achievers!!



Life Master Sharon Weintraub



Gold Life Master Arnold Kritz



Gold Life Master Steven Gewirtzman

Congratulations to the 2016 North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club Masterpoint Champions:



Elaine Clair
"Unlimited MP" 146.57 pts.



Bucky Sydnor
"0 to 1,500 MP" 94.69 points



Trish Blackman
"0 to 500 MP" 58.09 pts.

DISTRICT 4 PLACE FINISHERS FOR 2016

Jane Segal Player of the Year Claire Rolin (1st), Alison Shoemaker (3rd), Lisa Mita (4th),
0 to 500 points- \$100 cash prize Andrew Rosenberg (6th), John Barton (17th)

Jeanne Fisher Player of the Year Gary Hillenbrand (1st), Susan Morse (3rd), Thomas Salter
0 to 2,000 points - \$100 cash (8th), Claire Rolin (9th), Alison Shoemaker (15th), Lisa
Mita (16th), Ken Salter (20th)

Dave Treadwell Player of the Year Andy Kaufman (10th), Gary Hillenbrand (11th), Doug Dye
(23rd)

Player of the Year Unit 141 May Sakr (3rd place)
Seniors, Unit 141 Jane Ball (3rd place)

Online Points Leaders, Unit 141 Alvaro Ronderos (6th place
(District 4 winners) Estelle Ronderos (7th),
Nancy Walchek (8th)



Mini-McKenney Winners - Unit 141, District 4

0 to 5 MP Janet Chaiken (10th place)
5 to 20 MP Edward Heater (3rd), Gladys Firing (6th), Mary McGready (7th)
20 to 50 MP Margot Lebovitz (2nd), Sherri Lampert (3rd), Paul Cohen (8th)
50 to 100 MP Kay Garrity (6th place), Stanley Allen (7th place,)
100 to 200 MP Alison Shoemaker (1st place), Lisa Mita (4th), Deborah August
(7th), John Barton III (8th), Prem Premakumar (10th)
200 to 300 MP Claire Rolin (1st), Susan Anthony (3rd), Michael Freedman (6th)
300 to 500 MP Susan Morse (1st), Andrew Rosenberg (2nd), Bruce Young (3rd),
Gino Lenaz (4th), Eileen Zakuto (5th)
500 to 1000 MP Helen Walker (2nd), Patricia Andrews (4th), Barbara Gordon (10th)
1500 to 2500 MP Thomas Salter (4th place), Kenneth Salter (9th place)
2500 to 3500 MP John Dickenson (2nd), Jane Ball (4th), David Legrow (5th), R.
David Walker (6th), David Cohan (10th)
3500 to 5000 MP Elaine Clair (1st), Real Fradette (3rd), Douglas Dye (6th), Edward
Leach (10th place)
5000 to 7500 MP May Sakr (2nd), Andy Kaufman (5th), Jack Mendelsohn (6th)
7500 to 10,000 MP Arnold Selig (9th place)

Helen Shanbrom Unit 141 "Ace of Clubs" Winners

20 to 50 MP Margot Lebovitz (2nd), Sherri Lampert (3rd)
50 to 100 MP Stanley Allen (4th), Kay Garrity (5th)
100 to 200 MP Deborah August (3rd), Alison Shoemaker (5th), Pat Blackman (7th),
Donald Hockman (8th)
200 to 300 MP Susan Anthony (5th), Claire Rolin (6th), Michael Freedman (8th)
300 to 500 MP Andrew Rosenberg (1st), Bruce Young (2nd), Gino Lenaz (3rd),
Eileen Zakuto (9th), David Silverman (10th)
500 to 1000 MP Helen Walker (3rd), Barbara Gordon (6th)
1000 to 1500 MP Ralph Collins (1st place)
3500 5000 MP Elaine Clair (1st place)

5000 to 7500 MP
7500 to 10,000 MP

Ferne Kleban (4th place)
Arnold Selig (3rd place)

Sunshine: A big "thank you" to Susan Bailey and her team for decorating the club for the holidays. A special thank you to Beth and Roger Milton, Ginny Woodbury, Sandy Sill, Pat Andrews, and Jo Ferguson for purchasing the main items for the holiday parties! We appreciate your support of the club!

Bridge Club members *Charlie Kulp and Carolyn Murphy* passed away in October and December respectively. We want to express our deepest sympathies to their families and friends.

Sadly Phyllis and Ralph Levitan recently moved, and so Sue Bailey donated a farewell cake for Ralph at one of our recent games. Best wishes to the Levitan's.



Birthday greetings go to all of you who are celebrating in February, March, April, and May. 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."

Elections: Thank you to the club members who ran for election to serve on the Board of Directors for the three-year term 2017 - 2019. The club appreciates your interest and support of the club. Thank you to all who voted - both in person and by absentee ballot. Congratulations to Marlene Hino, Real Fradette, and Bob Umfer.

Susan Bailey, Club Secretary



Charity Games Update: We are pleased to announce that the North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club presented "**Variety - The Children's Charity**" and the "**Montgomery County SPCA**" a check in December for \$1,616.00 each - a total of \$4,022 for the 2016 year. (A part of the money was from an anonymous club member.) We thank you.



Club member Jackie Umphlet recently visited our charity recipient - the SPCA. She found it amazing. There were five pit bulls, one old, and one lost dog. The facility was exceptionally clean (no odor of any sort and definitely not even the chlorine/chemical smell). All had elevated small beds, each with their own blanket. The dogs were very clean and she wanted to take them all home. All had access to their outside run by their attendant in charge. She would love to have the club keep the SPCA in mind for future contributions. Jackie says, "Adopt a shelter dog, and you'll be rewarded a hundred-times over."

Membership: Our December membership drive has ended. To date we have 275 paid members. If you haven't paid your \$10 dues, please do so the next time you play at the club. (We know that there are a few "snow birds" who are out of town.) Please place your dues in an envelope, write your name on it, and put it in the **RED MAILBOX** located at the back of the room. If you have not received your **club directory**, please ask the director for one.

60 new members joined our club in 2016: Please welcome our newest members since October: Diane Castor, Carol Kauffman, Ari Eisenberg, Eileen Zakuto, Gail Kirrstetter, Sandy Balaban, Sheila Glass, Janis Kritzer, Deborah August, Richard Rosenfeld, May Sakr, Beverly Somerson, Audrey Hahn, Alan Meyers, Lois Meyers, Elise John and Jim John.
Elaine Watters, Membership Chair

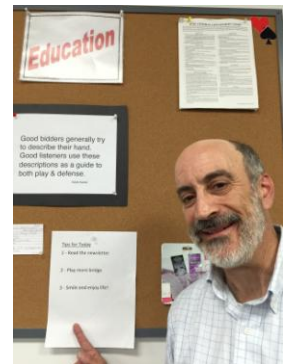
Miscellaneous: We do need improvement in the area of tidiness. If you play EW, take your trash with you when you move onto the next table. If you play NS, at the end of the game, place any remaining trash at your table by placing it in the trash bin.

Please pour out any liquids remaining in cups before they go into the trash. Trash bags occasionally have holes, and it doesn't take much of a leak to make a big mess.

We have received complaints about the accumulation of crumbs in the crevices around the table tops. We do clean them on occasion, but it is a tedious job. Please use a paper plate or yesterday's hand record as a placemat when you eat at the table. Lastly, paper towels go into the trash can.

Larry Umphlet, Club Manager

Human Interest Feature: **A tribute to our "A" players** - I was planning to write something on New Year's Resolutions for bridge players, but it seemed easier to make fun of the level "A" players. Yes, speaking for those of us who are not "A" players, let me state that while we are impressed with your superb skills at bridge, we also experience way too much mental strain playing against you. You rarely make mistakes, take most of the masterpoints from us, and are probably responsible for eating all of my favorite candies from the snack area!



All I can say is thank goodness for stratification. For those of you who played before stratification became the norm, do you remember when we were at the mercy of the "A" players? If you wanted masterpoints back then, you had to climb over the backs of all the good players to get them. Scoring masterpoints before the miracle of stratification was truly an accomplishment. Even now, you force the rest of us to pay closer attention in order to learn the tricky things you do at the table. Or is it magic? How else can you make the impossible bids work and always find the right opening lead? Actually I'm really ok with all of you "A" players as long as you don't laugh too hard at my mistakes. I think that's fair enough. Also, maybe you'll think of this column, get distracted, and make a mistake when I'm at your table. If you do, I promise not to laugh!!

With all the kidding aside, I like to **sincerely thank our "A" players** for raising the bar on the level of competition and making our bridge club members better bridge players. Your enthusiasm for the game is infectious. Thanks for showing the rest of us the path to excellent bridge play.

My interviews are with Elaine Clair and Ginny and Woody Woodbury. Those of you who review our website know that Elaine is the masterpoint leader at our club for the past three years. And if you didn't know, the Woodbury's are two of the most enthusiastic players at our club. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

My next column will be dedicated to mistakes made at the bridge table. By mistakes, I don't mean something you shouldn't have said to your partner. I mean a favorite story about one of your blunders at the bridge table - you know something that shouldn't have happened while playing conscious. If you have a "blunderful" story to share, please send it to me. Thanks and good luck in your next bridge game.

Michael Carver, Human Interest Feature Reporter, kasoffcarver@comcast.net

Ginny and Woody Woodbury: The Woodbury's met at a picnic when they were teenagers. Woody hit a double in a softball game while Ginny was playing second base. Woody stated that it was probably the only double he ever hit. It's good that he didn't strike out. They dated for six or eight years (they are at odds on this figure, but I think this is the "new math"). Ginny lived in Lower Gwynedd and Woody in Upper Gwynedd - separated by the William Penn Inn. They've been married for 47 years, have three children, and six grandchildren (all local).



Ginny has a Gwynedd Mercy BS in Nursing and worked in all types of nursing finishing her career as a school nurse for Central Bucks School District for 15 years. Woody has a Master's degree in math from Villanova. He worked mostly as a math teacher retiring from the North Penn School District after 30 years of teaching. He also worked as a software engineer, an account manager, and retired after 20 years from the Army Reserve. Other hobbies include music and singing. They both feel that music is a good way to make friends, "Eat, drink, music, sports, and be merry!" Woody is also a member of The Folkmen, a musical group of friends who still get together every year. They recently celebrated 50 years with a concert at the Indiana University of PA. Ginny and Woody's last two gigs were raising money for the North Wales Library (all six grandchildren sang, too.)

Q - How did they start playing bridge? A - They both played regularly with Woody's parents. Later they took lessons from Dottie at NPHS and Sam Matlin at MCCC.

Q - What led them to play duplicate? A - They've been members of their neighborhood duplicate bridge group for over 30 years. One of the members had duplicate boards and taught them how to play. In later years, they occasionally played at "The Moose."

Q - What was one of their favorite memories? A - Ginny enjoys assisting Ginny Tinner who directs a local monthly "ladies only" duplicate game and luncheon. They also enjoyed winning their first tournament in Valley Forge (or maybe they just enjoyed the trophies and coffee

mugs?) They also found the Philadelphia International bridge tournament fascinating. They met people from all over the world. In closing Ginny and Woody would like to thank the board members, directors, volunteers, and their NP bridge friends for making our club so friendly and successful.

Elaine Clair: Elaine was born and raised in Philadelphia. She attended Girl's High School and Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She met her future husband while in college, moved back to this area, had two children, and then finished her degree in Elementary Education at the University of Pennsylvania.



Elaine volunteered as a Docent at the Philadelphia Zoo for 21 years in its "Zoo to You" program. While she never taught in a school system, she used her teaching skills when she presented the animals for school programs and other community settings. Eventually the program was phased out, and she moved on to other things. One of those other things are her three grandsons who live in Florida, State College, and Houston. Elaine is a former golfer, plays piano, putters at sewing and reads when she's not taking in a movie.....and yes, she also plays a lot of bridge!

Q - How did she start playing bridge? A - Her husband played bridge all through school, so she learned, too, playing socially with friends. She read a few books - one by Goren and another by Sheinwold - and started learning more about the game. She wound up teaching her husband a few things.

Q - What led her to play duplicate? A - Elaine had a friend who was looking for a partner for duplicate at the Casa Conte in Glenside. Selma Brodsky was her regular partner. Elaine started playing at the NPD Bridge Club when it was located at The Moose. After the club moved to South Line Street, she began playing twice a week. After finding more partners, she now plays almost every day.

Q - What was one of her favorite memories? A - She's played against many pro's and has enjoyed getting to know a number of them. She's won a number of local, unit, and district awards (Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs, etc.) She says that she feels blessed to have some really wonderful bridge partners.....Real, Tony, Bob, John, and many others. She says playing bridge with them is her favorite memory. They've become really good friends.

From the Editor's Desk: Please consider attending the club's **EVENING games** which start at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday nights are challenging, but I find that the game is a good "learning experience" for me. Besides, "playing up" is good for everyone. Friday night games are fun and social and more of a "party night." Hope to see you Tuesday or Friday night.

Check out District 4's website's "Our Players' Stories." Three of our members (Maryland Wanck, Mary Sakr, and Carole Bishop) have their bridge stories published there.

Elaine Watters, Newsletter Editor

