



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Summer, 2021

WELCOME BACK !!

It has been great seeing so many smiling faces at the Bridge Connection since reopening the club on June 1st. It is hard to believe the Bridge Connection was closed for almost 15 months. Had you told us in March of 2020 that the next time we would all be playing face-to-face, live bridge was June of 2021, we would have said there is no way that is possible!

We want to send a huge thank you to all players that continued to support us online in our virtual club games at BridgeBase.com (BBO) throughout the Pandemic. Your support was vital as the club continued to pay bills each and every month while we were closed. If it wasn't for your support of our virtual games, The Bridge Connection would never have reopened. An additional thanks must be given to the ACBL and BBO's partnership as it helped many clubs across the United States, including ours, stay solvent during these unprecedented times.

Now that we are fully reopened for all club games, we want to remind you of the steps that we have taken to help keep players safe and healthy while playing live, face-to-face bridge. We have installed a HEPA-2 Air purification system. Players are asked to self-certify and take their temperature each day they walk in the club. Purell hand sanitizer is available at every playing table in the club. For those who wish to wash their hands, paper towels and soap are available in our kitchen. Additional bidding boxes will be provided for any East-West player who would like to move from table to table with their own box. We are open to other suggestions, so please do not hesitate to contact us with ideas that will help make the transition back to live bridge comfortable for all players.

Out of an abundance of caution, we also made the decision to stop serving food. There is simply no way to assure the absence of cross-contamination. Serving large groups of people a buffet-style meal could potentially put people at risk. The safety and health of all of our players, directors and volunteers is our top priority.

Finally, we will continue to offer both live bridge as well as a few on-line games. Please see the schedule on our website as we are making frequent adjustments to it.

Thanks again for your support of the Bridge Connection and we look forward to seeing you in the club!

Grant & Mike

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

Please join us in congratulating the following Bridge Connection players for achieving new Life Master Milestones from January 2020 to June 2021:

Platinum

Brenda Jaffe (10,000)
Marty Hirschman (20,000)
Bob Webber (15,000)
Willie Winokur (10,000)

Emerald (7,500)

Brenda Bryant
Jonathan Fleischmann
Jerry Grossman
Bob Katz

Diamond (5,000)

Clarke Cunningham
Daniel Marcus

Sapphire (3,500)

Nathan Banker
Grant Petersen
Bob Raf
Alan Tushman

Gold (2,500)

Sandy Birnholtz
Rhonda Monro
Marilyn Nathanson
Bonnie Weinstein

Ruby (1,500)

Alan Cohn
Dennis Potocsky
Steve Shumer
Kathy Twomey

Silver (1,000)

Barb Ferrera
Jane Gardner
Song Lin
Jim Rowe
Geri Spilman

Bronze

Sushila Aggarwal
Laura Burke
Barbara Button
Mike Hermoyian
Mike Koscielski
Craig Linderman

Carrie Osborne
Jerrie Sasson
Sue Smith
Paul Strunkel
Doug Sweeder

New Life Master

Tom Bonfils
Arnold Brandt
Mary Jo Campbell
Gay Garcia
Joel Grossman
Alan Hassoun
Beth Kordt
Jim McNamera
Roz Monticciolo
Pam Radike
Hugh Rosenthal
Jerrie Sasson
Bridget Schipper
Ping Wu

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Anderson
Patty Becker
Jerry Bloom
Mike (Myles) Brasch
Chuck Burger
Shel Dulberg
Bedford (Lee) Embrey
Betty Goldberg
Sy Goodman
John Jacobs
Marion Kohlenberg
Stan Litinsky
Margaret Lockwood
Ed Lough
Richard Menczer
Tillie Nelson
Gene Owens
Jerry Peplowski
Theda Smith
Bob Solomon
Neal Strand

HEALTH REMINDER

Do your part to keep our club healthy!! Out of courtesy to your fellow players, if you do not feel well, as much as we'd like your business, STAY HOME! While at the club, wash your hands and use the hand sanitizers around the club frequently. If you need to cough, that's what elbows are for!

**2021 UPDATED ALERT
PROCEDURES**
Jonathan Fleischmann

As of January 1, 2021, ACBL updated its alert procedures. For a complete overview, please see: [AlertProcedures2.pdf \(acbl.org\)](#). The ACBL is currently working to update the convention card to reflect the differences. While many procedures have changed, only a few are likely to impact day-to-day auctions. Here are some of the most important updates:

1. When alerting partner's transfer bid, *announce the suit partner is transferring to*. This includes all transfers to a major or a minor, and if in response to an opening or overcall in a suit or notrump. This does not apply to puppets or relays, where the bid does not show one guaranteed suit. For all such bids, including 2♠ showing either minor in response to 1NT, or 2NT forcing 3♣ as part of lebensohl, the bid should be alerted without an announcement, and explained fully upon request.
2. Support doubles and redoubles no longer need to be alerted, nor do any doubles or redoubles starting with opener's rebid.
3. Any system with a forcing or artificial one-level opening bid needs to be pre-alerted. This includes Precision and any system where 1♣ may be short other than with 4432 distribution. For all minor-suit opening bids that may be fewer than three, whether or not pre-alerted, the bid should be announced as "could be _," providing the shortest the suit could be.
4. If after a 1H opening, responder may bid 1NT and routinely bypass four spades (as when playing Flannery), announce "could have 4 spades," in addition to "forcing" or "semi-forcing" if appropriate.
5. No natural jump shifts are alertable, including weak or invitational bids.
6. Direct cuebids other than Michaels (showing both majors over a minor or showing the other major and an unspecified minor over a major) need to be alerted.
7. Sandwich 1NT overcalls showing the unbid suits need to be alerted, even if made by a passed hand.
8. At the end of the auction, all control bids should be alerted, as should all responses to Gerber or Blackwood. Control bids do not guarantee length in a suit, but are used in slam investigation to indicate suits where, by holding the ace, king or shortness, the opponents cannot take the first two tricks.

9. No carding needs to be alerted or pre-alerted, including leading low from small doubletons. ♠

**A WORD (OR TWO) ABOUT
MASTERPOINTS**

The world of masterpoints has changed dramatically over the years. In the good ole days, if you won a ten table open pair game you received a whopping .20 masterpoints. Now, it's *at least* 1.00 and likely more.

In medieval times, each club was permitted to run what was called a monthly "masterpoint game." Section winners at these would receive 1.00 masterpoints and players would drive all over the metropolitan Detroit area to play at a club's monthly masterpoint game.

With the advent of stratification, flighting, Gold Rush events and the plethora of tournaments, "earning" masterpoints has become much more player friendly. In those good old days, if you wanted to play in a novice or limited game, they were only available at tournaments. Now, most every club has a healthy diet of these games.

Most bridge players play duplicate because they are competitive. Everyone likes to do well and to be rewarded for it. Interestingly though, a surprising proportion of our players are masterpoint indifferent. They just love the game.

As a result of the masterpoint proliferation, have masterpoints been cheapened? It is hard to argue with that. Look at frequent flyer miles for airlines. There are now umpteen different ways to earn those miles, but the airlines are no fools – they have jacked up the mileage requirements to redeem awards. The ACBL has partially done that with the introduction of gold points.

Whether or not the ACBL should emulate the airlines and make it more difficult to become a Life Master or advance in rank is a topic that has been discussed extensively in recent years.

Regardless of your take, it is hard to argue that it is almost impossible to infer anything about a player's bridge ability based on the number of masterpoints they possess. ♠

**PLAYER PROFILE:
LINDA PERLMAN**



I was born in Akron, Ohio. My father died in World War II, but before he left, he and my mom took bridge lessons and that was the source of my bridge gene. I learned to play bridge at the Ohio State Student Union and never stopped – I can't imagine not playing.

My biggest inspiration came after kibbitzing Barry Crane playing with Margaret Wager and winning a four-session regional open pairs. The next year, when I was about 20, I and my regular partner, Cappy Asheim, began to win.

I've since been involved in most phases of the game as a teacher, director, board member, and club owner. But, my heart always was with playing.

My original intention was to be a teacher but a few education courses changed my mind. I've worked as a switchboard operator, in an insurance company, bingo hall manager, bookie (!), dabbled in real estate and returned to bridge as a director in the Palm Beach, FL area. I got involved in unit and district administration and then decided to open a 10,000 square foot bridge club. It was everything a bridge club should be, except successful. After the club closed, I began playing professionally and still do.

Among my bridge accomplishments are winning the National Mixed Teams and a bronze medal in the Wagar Womens' Teams. I am a Grand Life Master and once had the thrill of playing with Oswald Jacoby.

Aside from bridge, my other great love is animals; especially dogs (great) and cats (even better). I was married to Howard Perlman and we have one son and a granddaughter, neither of whom are the least bit interested in bridge.

The thing I love most about bridge is the friends you make. I have so many life-long bridge acquaintances some of whom are very close friends. I think I could move to any city in the country, and maybe even Canada, and know some bridge friends there. I love the Bridge Connection. The

ability to play with some very strong players here has made my game even better.

My bridge tip is: whenever you can, review your games with the hand records and your scorecard. See your partner's hands and figure out what you might have done better. This is still a regular practice of mine after every bridge session. ♠

**BRIDGE CONNECTION
SCHEDULE**

North American Pairs Qualifying Games (considerably higher masterpoint awards): All games July 19–24 AND August 9-14.

Club Championships: Monday Aug. 2 – Sat. Aug. 7.*

Sectional at the Connection: Closed for all games Th. August 26 – Sun. Aug. 29.

Labor Day: Open for open game only, 9/6 at 11:55am

Rosh Hashanah: Open for all games.

Yom Kippur: Closed Wed. evening 9/15, open Th. 9/16.

*Additional club championships will be scheduled. Check our website.

LONGEST DAY UPDATE

The Bridge Connection held its Longest Day game on Tuesday June 22. Due to the short time we were re-opened, our usual fund raising activities were curtailed and we relied solely on the generosity of our players to make direct donations to The Alzheimer's Association.

We are very pleased to report that as of the date of this publication, we have raised \$ 5,830 – a remarkable sum considering the short time available – and donations are still coming in. We will not know how this places in the ACBL until the October Bridge Bulletin comes out.

If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, there is still time. You can donate until July 31st and have your donation credited to the Bridge Connection. Simply bring your donation to the club OR go to alz.acbl – donate – donate to fund raiser – Ronald Horwitz and the Connection will get credit for your donation. ♠