



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Winter, 2020

*A Happy and Healthy New Year
to All of Our Players*

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

**ACBL-wide International Fund Game
(Sat. Feb. 1, 12:30 pm.)**

**Sectional at the Bridge Connection (Th.
Feb. 6 – Sun. Feb. 9).** Closed for all games.

**Club Championships (Mon. March 2–
Sat. March 7);** All games; higher
masterpoint awards for overall finishers in
all strata. Regular entry fee.

**Sectional at the Bridge Connection (Th.
April 2 – Sun. April 5).** Closed for all
games.

**Farmington Hills Regional at the Costick
Center (Mon. May 11 – Sunday May 17):**
Closed for all games.

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

Please join us in congratulating the
following Bridge Connection players
for achieving new Life Master
Milestones:

Gold Life Master (2,500)

Jim Bloom
Marilyn Crane

Ruby Life Master (1,500)

Steven Winokur

Bronze Life Master (500)

Julie Baba

New Life Master

Julie Baba
Susan Michelotti

PLAYER PROFILE

ALAN HASSOUN

(Alan is a regular in both the 750 and open games. He is just short of becoming a Life Master.)



I was born in Lebanon and came to the US to attend the Engineering School at the University of Michigan. After graduating, I moved to the Detroit area and settled with DTE where I spent the last 30 years of my career working in the engineering and regulatory affairs areas of nuclear power generation.

It's hard to believe that only a few years ago, if anyone mentioned the word "bridge," I would have thought they are talking about the Golden Gate or the Ambassador Bridge. I did not know much about bridge until I signed up to take a beginner's class a little over three years ago after I retired. I do remember while growing up I admired the personality of the Egyptian actor Omar Sharif. As I learned more about him, I discovered that he played this card game called bridge and was really good at it.

I was somewhat disappointed when at the end of my first beginner bridge class, my instructor recommended that I repeat the class before moving up to the intermediate level class. I felt a bit better when I found out that this recommendation was given to everyone!

After taking two beginner classes and one intermediate class, I felt that I was ready for testing my bridge skills. I started playing rubber bridge and enjoyed it for a while. However, I did not find a real challenge in social bridge. So, I decided to venture into duplicate bridge.

I remember first walking into the Bridge Connection in November 2016. I was told about the beginners' game on Saturday mornings. As I walked in a man walked up to me and said, "you look like you're new here!" I confirmed his assumption and he introduced himself as Grant Petersen. Grant was getting ready to start his Saturday lesson and invited me to listen in. After the lesson, he said that I should pull up a chair and watch the game at one of the tables. I did, and as I talked to some of the players, one of them asked if I could play the next Saturday which I quickly agreed to. That's how I got hooked.

Today, I consider myself a regular at the Bridge Connection. I'm fortunate to be able to play several times a week while my wife is still occupied with her busy medical practice. I learned a lot from playing in the Barometer game on Tuesday mornings and I am still learning every day. I think the Bridge Connection does a great job in promoting the game. I am particularly thankful for all the knowledge I gained from attending lessons by Grant, Bob, Linda, Ron, Jonathan, Willie and Samir.

My three adult children are pretty much on their own but still occasionally ask me for advice when they're really stuck or need a sounding board. When I'm not playing bridge, I'm either playing racquetball, working out in the gym or just going out for a run on the West Bloomfield Nature Trail. But my best recreation is the time I spend with my three-year-old grandson and 15-month granddaughter.

Around the bridge table, I've met some very interesting people. I enjoy discussing bidding and playing the hands with others after the game. I find that reviewing the hand records or the travelers online offers great opportunities to learn from my mistakes and do better in similar future situations. I am constantly amazed by the level of intensity and passion that some of the highly experienced players still exhibit while talking about the bidding or play of specific hands, ♠

2019 TROPHY WINNERS

For the FOURTH year in a row, Bert Newman has won the Bolton-Crafton-Melander Trophy for winning the most masterpoints at the Bridge Connection during the year. Bert has won the trophy every year since its inception.

Pat McCabe won the Bloom Trophy which goes to the person who began the year with fewer than 25 masterpoints and won the most during the year/

Bridge Connection regulars were also named winners of several unit trophies. Linda Perlman won the MBA Stein Trophy for the most masterpoints at MBA tournaments. Owen Lien won the Marsee Trophy for the most masterpoints during the Year. Mike Alioto repeated as the Mouser Trophy winner for the most masterpoints at the Motor City Regional.

Congratulations to all of our fine players. ♠

A WORD ABOUT MASTERPOINTS

The number of masterpoints you can win at our games is a function of the rating of the game and the number of tables in play. The stratum you are assigned to will also have an effect.

Connection games with higher masterpoint awards include STaCs (of course), NAP qualifying games, ACBL Membership Games, Club Appreciation Games, ACBL-wide events and club championships.

Many of these will award some red points; STaCs award *silver* points; and, aside from a small number of gold points that may be available, most of these special games award black points. ♠

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

OCTOBER:

A. Bert Newman	9.43
Marty Hirschman	9.12
B. Lynda Thal	6.38
C. David Mitchell	2.96

NOVEMBER:

A. Bert Newman	21.13
Jerry Grossman	17.59
B. Nancy Finkel	11.46
C. Evelyn Rosen	4.19

DECEMBER:

A. Marty Hirschman	15.06
Linda Perlman	13.84
B. Carolyn Simmer	8.84
C. Sushila Aggarwal	5.92

CHUCK BURGER WINS ACBL AWARD

At the San Francisco NABC Chuck Burger of West Bloomfield was named the recipient of the 2020 von Zedtwitz Award. The award is given annually to a player who has achieved prominence in the game of bridge and has an outstanding tournament record but who may not have been in the limelight for a significant period of time.

Chuck, who frequently plays at the Connection with his national champion wife Suzy, has 11 NABC championships and 19 second place finishes. He will receive the award at the Summer NABC in Montreal. ♠

2019 MOTOR CITY REGIONAL WINNERS

Congratulations to our players who placed first overall in their stratum in two-session events at the October Motor City Regional:

Mon. Open Pairs: Marty Hirschman/Bob Brent (1A); Sandy Birnholtz/Bob Rasmussen (1B)
Mon. Gold Rush Pairs: Jim Verhage/David Winer ((1-3); Sandi Wolfe/Diane Kasuda (!-2)
Tues. Bracketed Swiss: Hirschman/Brent/Linda Perlman/Mike Alioto (1-1); Steve Jacob-Bob Raf- Jim Rowe – Sandy Birnholtz (1-2); Ken/Ar;lene Geisler (1-3); Tom Bonfils/Paul Chirgwin (1-4); Alan Hassoun-Mike Roeder – Marianne Victor – Judy Kamins (1-5)
Wed. Open Pairs: Mark Bendure/Mike Alioto (1-A); Julie Arbit/Lynn Root (1-B)
Wed. Gold Rush: Matt Rosenthal/Ron Whitney (1-B)
Thurs. Bracketed Swiss: Hirschman-Brent-Alioto (1-1); Sue McIlhiny (1-3); Carrie Osborne – Lisa Karam (1-4);
Thurs. K/Os: Dick Temkin – Frank Treiber – Bob Webber – Bob Katz
Fri. Open Pairs: Howard Perlman/Chuck Burger (1-A); Henry/Yanpng Zhang (1-B/C)
Fri. Gold Rush: Hassoun/Roeder (1-7)
Sat. Swiss: H. Perlman – Burger – Jonathan Fleischmann (1-A)
Sat. Open Pairs: Mary Smith/Henry Shevitz (1-A); Henry/Yanping Zhang (1-B/C)
Sat. Gold Rush: Elie Chidiac/Gary Boyers (1-3)
Sun. Bracketed Swiss: Arbit-Kurt Dasher-Katz-Fleischmann (1-1); Jim Walter (1-2); Song Lin – Zhangs (1-3); Ron Zurilla (1-5)

Mike Alioto won the Mouser Trophy (most masterpoints at the MCR) for the third year in a row. Mike won three events and 117.30 masterpoints,

IN MEMORIAM

Murray Bloom
Michael Bonczak
Thelma (Stalburg) Brown
Harold Osher
Al Varone

BIDDING REMINDERS

A reminder that the absence of the “STOP” card in the bidding box still requires the next player to pause before placing a bid card on the table after a skip bid has been made on his right.

And, we have noticed an increasing number of players who tap the table or say “pass” for the final bid in an auction. This has the potential to cause problems at the table when the tap misunderstood. Avoid issues and use the green card when making *all* passes. ♠

WEATHER CLOSING NOTICES

REMINDER: In the rare case we are forced to close the club because of inclement weather, we will do our best to post a notice on *both* of our web sites: www.mibridgeconnection.com, and www.bridgewebs/connection ♠ .

70% GAMES

Marty Hirschman/Debra Eaves
Dick Temkin/Mike Crane
Kathy & Bert Newman
Mike Giordano/Richard Becher
Nathan Banker/Marilyn Nathanson
Peter Hellekjaer/Jim VerHage
Norm Wechsler/Sushila Aggarwal

Ron Horwitz, Editor