



THE CONSUMER

WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

www.mbuinc.org

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

April 2021



President's Message

By Lynda J. Straker

Greetings, MBU Family,

Looks like there's light at the end of the tunnel! We just don't know how far away that light is.

Hope all is well with you and yours although we are still in the throes of a pandemic. Some of us have received the much sought-after vaccinations. Others are still seeking appointments. Still others are undecided about opting for a vaccination at all.

Now that communities around the country are "opening up," I expect our members will have conversations about when it will be safe for the MBU to congregate again around bridge tables. I will be meeting more regularly with the Executive Committee and your club presidents to get feedback and discuss our options as time goes by. I am also looking forward to your feedback during our next MBU membership meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 2 pm. Zoom instructions for this meeting will be forwarded to you via email during the two-week period prior to the meeting.

Thank you to all who are participating in the Wednesday Bridge Home benefit games. Your support is greatly appreciated and ensures we will have a Bridge Home to come back to when this pandemic is finally brought under control.

We are waiting for the last "t" to be crossed so we can begin our virtual club games on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm on BBO. We will do our best to communicate to everyone the start date as soon as we know it. So, if you are a dues-paying member of an MBU affiliated club and you have a BBO username, when you see a Pairs game titled MBU BIG APPLE on BBO, go ahead and register to play.

Looking forward to meeting again, virtually or in person,

Stay the Course

By Dolores Watson

As we navigate through uncharted waters, the winds of upheaval continue to prevail threatening our safety and sense of well-being. These challenging times demand that we persevere and stay the course.

Last December, I was gifted an Alexa (a device the size of a cream-filled donut). Alexa is a virtual assistant activated by voice commands. The device is programmed to retrieve all sorts of facts. For example: calculator, dictionary, and encyclopedia. "Alexa, what is time and temperature?" You can ask this for any location. Alexa will access news sources and any genre of music you desire. Curious? "Alexa, what is American Bridge Association?" Alexa read an article from Wikipedia (an online source). Although I will not go into details here, you can read the full historical overview at <https://ababridge.org/about-aba>.

Black History Month featured numerous contributions of achievers who were challenged to be the best and inspire others not to give up. I believe that our current members are dedicated and committed. We have transitioned from close social communication and interaction to digital online bridge playing. We stepped up our game to play the game.

These times demand we adapt to meet the challenges. An active membership that pays dues, plays online and recruits is the foundation for continuity. We acknowledge the founding fathers legacy handed down to us back in 1932, an era filled with obstacles and whose perseverance has given us an organization that is worthy of growing and being better. Stay the course!

Coming soon. Stay tuned!





Astro DBC

By Doris White

Our president, Julia Rinehardt, is still at the rehab center in Little Neck. She is taking physical therapy; however, she hopes to be home in a couple of weeks. She asked me to tell all the members of the MBU that she is appreciative for all the support shown by everyone with calls, prayers, and cards. This showing of love has given her hope and lifted her spirits tremendously. She says she misses everyone and hopes we will meet face to face soon.

Astro is proud of its member, Dianne Edgerton-Norman. She is the parliamentarian for both the Metropolitan Bridge Unit and the Eastern Section, is officially a Registered Parliamentarian. Remember, this is a credential bestowed by the premiere international parliamentary organization. Earning this designation currently requires that you take and pass five rigorous examinations, covering 1,200 questions, and based on almost 900 dense pages of parliamentary procedure in Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Ninety percent of organizations, boards, and deliberative assemblies utilize Roberts Rules of Order as their parliamentary authority, but very few organizations have parliamentarians that are professionally qualified and credentialed. Congratulations Dianne for a job well done!

Stay well and be safe.

Brooklynites DBC

By Jane Atlas

Wow! Brooklynites DBC is celebrating its sixth anniversary. Remarkably, the club continues to thrive with 28 members and 12 associates.

President Lois Francis teaches bridge on Zoom and students practice lessons at a teaching table on BBO. Graduated students play on Thursdays or Fridays in a mini tournament. First week, New York played Ohio. Second week, winning New York pair played Indiana and North Carolina. The competition is so much fun that losers ask to kibitz upcoming games.

Class is Sunday at 3 pm EDT, and 12 noon PDT. There are 20+ students from Texas, California, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, New York, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida who are having fun meeting and greeting each other before the lessons start. Lois is happy to have a retired U.S. Army General in the current class.

We look forward to a return to face-to-face bridge at which time we will celebrate our sixth anniversary in a big way. Can't wait to see all of you.

Bayview DBC

By Valerie Brooks

It is spring! A time for new beginnings. We are so happy to see a light at the end of this "pandemic tunnel."

We bow our heads for all the members who have passed and for those who have lost loved ones during the past year, and we continue to look on High for strength and direction.

"May God take care of all of your needs.
Touch your Life with Joy and Contentment
Bless your Heart with Love and Faith
Comfort you with Gladness and Inner Peace
Grant you Good Health and Relief from Life's burdens."

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Co-op City DBC

By Lorelei Blackman

Greetings to one and all. The members of the Co-op City Duplicate Bridge Club wish everyone a wonderful spring!

We haven't seen each other due to the coronavirus and the quarantine we're committed to comply with. Though we look like masked bandits, let's still do our best to keep our spirits up. Hopefully, we are nearing the finish line and will soon be back to our somewhat normal lives.

Stand up, sit down, exercise in place! Until then, try to smile every chance you get, laugh out loud and be thankful we're still here. Take a moment to do everything you can to keep your spirits up. Be cheerful (no one is watching) and hopeful folks are playing bridge (online, somewhere, or in some fashion). Just think about it, at least the snow is behind us.

Sadly, over the past few months, throughout the MBU and ABA we've lost some of our dearest bridge playing comrades and family. Everyone here sends their sincerest condolences to the friends and families of so many. Adieu, they will all be remembered and missed.

WELCOME TO:
LESSON ONE (1)
&
LESSON TWO (2)

For my daughter
Monique
and other
New Learners

Certified Bridge Teacher
A Card Game for a Lifetime
Interactive Bridge Lessons



Cosmopolitan DBC

By Steven Bond

As we look forward to spring (despite winter not wanting to leave), we feel a sense of hope that things will be getting better soon, especially since we now have vaccines that will slow the spread of the virus, and eventually stop it. We wish for everyone to stay healthy until that day comes.

We congratulate those who are celebrating birthdays in April, Ellen Tauber and Helen Williams; May, Joan Barash; and June, Cheryl Jones, Jose Ramos, Rosalie Samuels, and Ruth Shuler.

We look forward to when we can see each other again at the tables.

Jet Setter DBC

By Beverly Sessions-Kelly

Hello everyone. Hope everyone is well and keeping safe these days. As New York begins to open up, remember to be careful and keep your mask on. We are not out of the woods yet.

Looking forward to seeing you at the MBU bridge table.

The Jet Setters wish you a Happy Easter!

DBC of Mount Vernon

By Rita Thompson

Congratulations to Mount Vernon's 2020 MBU BBO Players of the Year including Ann and Harvey Brandwein aka Brandy308 and cubswin16 (Asterisk, 1st and 2nd place, respectively), Rita Thompson aka Rita10469 (Life Master, 2nd place), William Wood, Jr. aka bigwoods (Diamond, 1st place), Charles Guest aka bluechuck7 (Silver Diamond, 1st place) and Parvez Mehta aka ParvezMHT (Platinum Diamond, 1st place). If you see them on BBO, please say "hello."

Scholarship Chair Dr. Gloria Hobbs and her team are undaunted in their commitment to securing scholarships for high school graduates in Mount Vernon. Since we cannot hold a scholarship game due to the pandemic, we have appealed to our members for donations to this worthy cause.

President Charles Guest has been working with officials at Mount Vernon City Hall to finalize arrangements for playing at the Doles Center when club games resume. At the Doles Center we'll be

able to begin playing earlier, there's ample parking and this venue is accessible with Access-a-Ride.

We heard the MBU will be launching a virtual club on BBO soon known as MBU Big Apple. You can count on seeing many of our members there.

Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

We welcome spring, the season of new life, hope, and beginnings. 2020 is in the past, President Biden has brought an uplifting attitude forth so we can smile, and I hope that everyone's game is what each of you continues to strive for. Our president, Marion Mercer, hopes all is well with our families and that we keep well to enjoy the coming season.

Happy birthday to Lavaris Marks and Moses Smallwood (April). May your day bring "showers of blessings" your way. In May, congratulations go to Janice McBean and Sharon Fox. In June, Diana Green will celebrate her special day. We hope all the celebrants will enjoy fulfilling treats.

Thoughts and good wishes are extended to Moses and Evelyn Smallwood and Sandra Surita. Continue to stay well and recover.

Triangle DBC

By Bernice Williams

Greetings from Harlem's Triangle Duplicate Bridge Club. Hope all are well during these trying times. ARC Central Harlem senior services were proficient in the ability to obtain vaccinations with no fanfare. One phone call took care of all the arrangements including round-trip transportation.

I finally have to concede and get established to play online, so as not to lose what skills I have picked up prior to this COVID-19 pandemic.

We have a belated birthday wish to our point coordinator, Greg Morrison. His day was during March which we know is gone. In April, we have Marzella Dawkins and May Ott. During the sunny month of May, we have Betty Donnerson and Ida Minault. In June we have our diligent treasurer, Annie Nelson, and Triangle's Grand Life Master Julius Fields.

That's all for now until we get back to in-person games as I am sure it will not be as long as it has been. So long for now, stay safe and stay strong.



Twilight DBC

By Jesse Palmer

The vaccine has arrived and hopefully the COVID-19 crisis will soon be over. Spring is here so go out and enjoy the warmer weather and the freshness of spring flowers. Wishing you a blessed Palm Sunday and Easter.

Please remember Cynthia Stroy and Mercedes Mann in your prayers.

We are looking forward to returning to the bridge tables and hope to play with you soon.

Westbury DBC

By Patricia Binyard

Greetings MBU family. Spring is here and I think we can see the "light at the end of the tunnel." If you have or will be getting your vaccine soon, I'm positive it will help shut down this horrible epidemic and get us back to the bridge table. Wouldn't that be wonderful! Just to be able to see our bridge family in person will be a treat.

I see that many of our members are playing online, but there are many who are not. I am reaching out to my club members to see how we can help and encourage them to participate, and it will be great for you all to do the same. I have learned many new conventions playing with the robots, which I hope will help me improve my game. Of course, the robots can be pretty whacky at times but so can I.

Tom Holloway can now have visitors at The Arbor. You can make an appointment to see him by calling the Arbor 516-333-6400 or calling him direct 516-698-1362. Please continue to keep Wilma Alexander, Ted Conliffe and Mayer Wiesen in your prayers.

Belated birthday wishes to Ted Conliffe and Jeraldine Odoms who celebrated their special day in January.

Get Well Wishes

Astro
Julia Rinehardt

Bayview
Rudy Cummings
Phyllis Jones

Springfield
Evelyn Smallwood
Moses Smallwood
Sandra Surita



Twilight
Cynthia Stroy
Mercedes Mann

Westbury
Wilma Alexander
Ted Conliffe
Tom Holloway
Mayer Wiesen



APRIL

BAYVIEW
Donna Woo
BROOKLYNITES
Kathleen Marshall
CO-OP CITY
Edna Salley
COSMO
Ellen Tauber
Helen Williams
MOUNT VERNON
Charles Guest
Charlotte Roberson

SPRINGFIELD
Lavaris Marks
Moses Smallwood
TRIANGLE
Marzella Dawkins
May Ott
TWILIGHT
Morris Johnson
WESTBURY
Deborah Mabry
Joel Ross

MAY

BAYVIEW
Patricia Thomas
BROOKLYNITES
Regine Latortue
CO-OP CITY
Alicia Mapp
Genesis Washington
COSMO
Joan Barash
JET SETTER
Grace Parris

MOUNT VERNON
Harvey Brandwein
Jean DeVeaux
Jean Keizs
SPRINGFIELD
Sharon Fox
Janice McBean
TRIANGLE
Betty Donnerson
Ida Minault
TWILIGHT
Shirley Gross

JUNE

BAYVIEW
Christian Baxter
CO-OP CITY
Delius Wilson
COSMO
Cheryll Jones
Jose Ramos
Rosalie Samuels
Ruth Shuler

MOUNT VERNON
Elmond Harley
Wanda Miles
SPRINGFIELD
Diana Green
TRIANGLE
Annie Nelson
Julius Fields
WESTBURY
Lenny Binyard
Donna Lewis

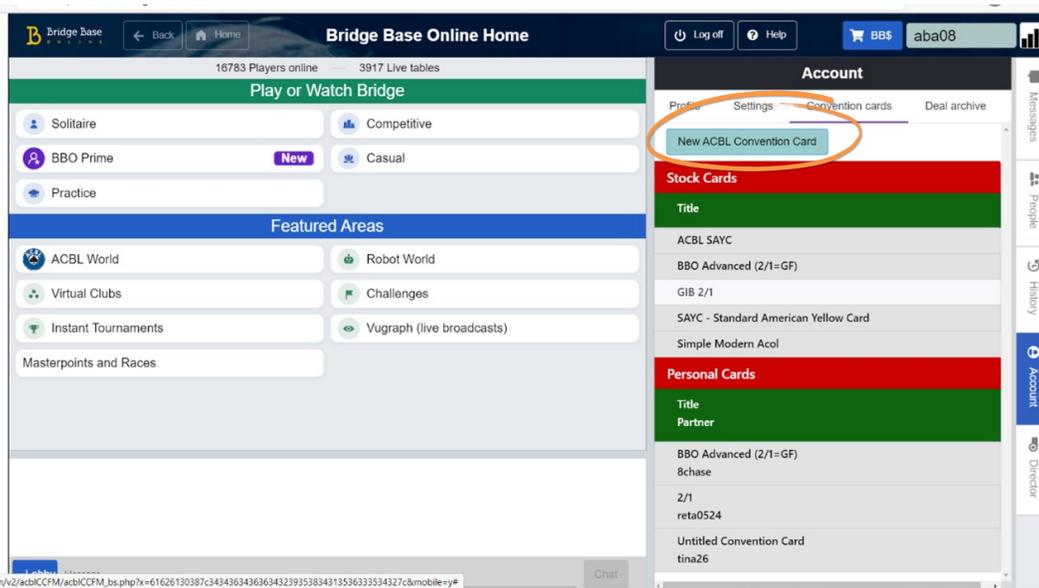


The Director's Corner

By Annetta Wallace

CONVENTION CARDS ON BBO

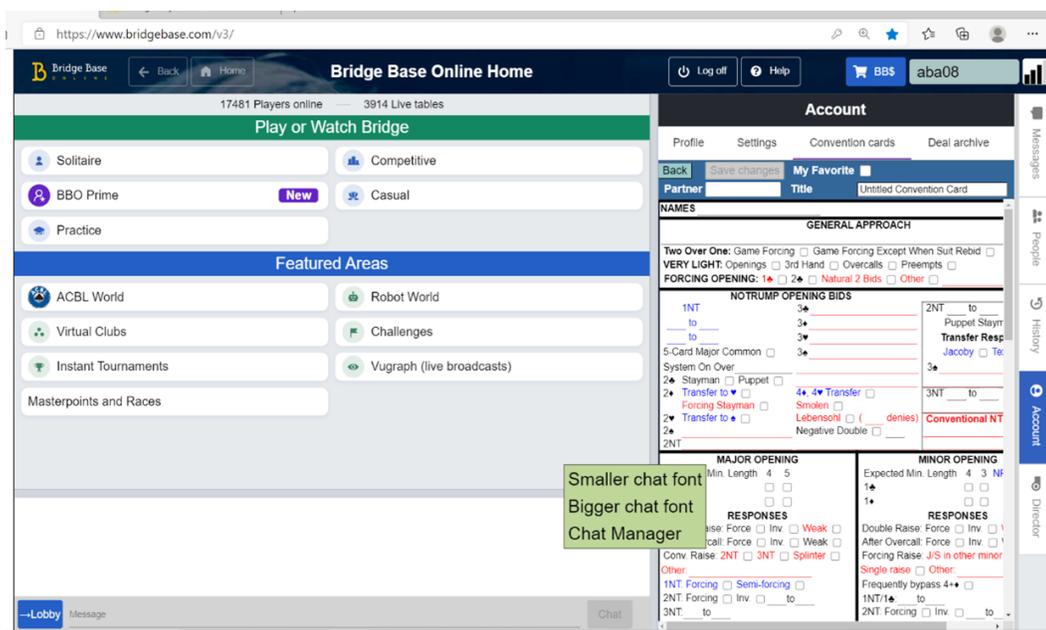
Just as in face-to-face bridge, every partnership playing on BBO is required to complete a convention card. A convention card describes your playing style and lists your conventional understandings. When you complete a convention card for your partnerships, BBO automatically loads the card to every table you play at.



To complete a convention card, follow the steps below:

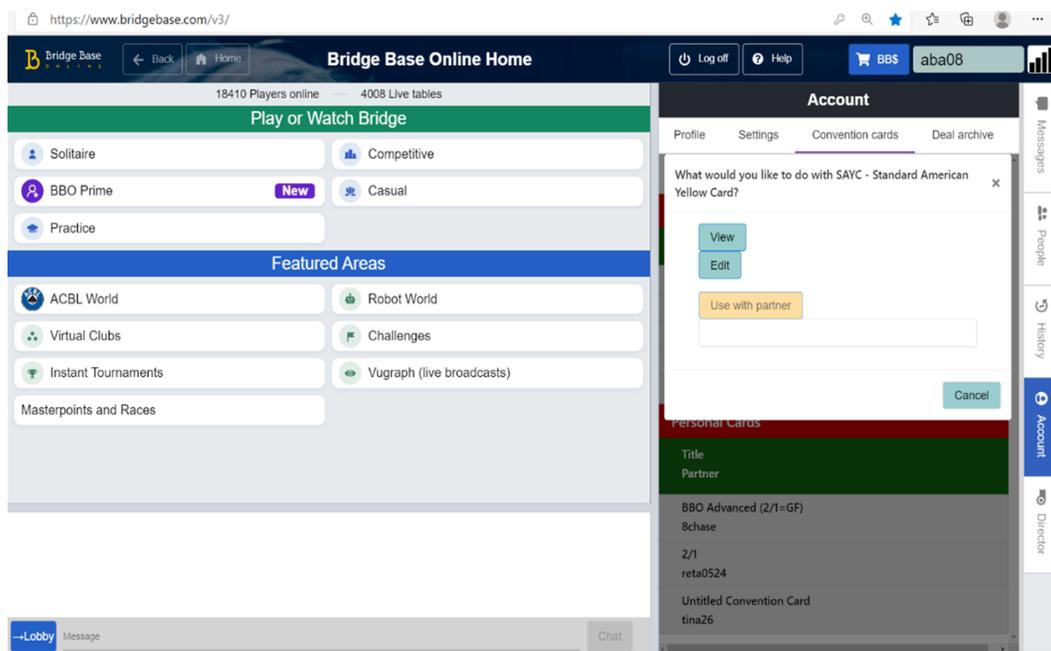
Click the "Account" tab, and then the "Convention cards" header. This will bring up BBO's convention card manager.

Here you can find several stock convention cards. If you click on any line, it will bring up options to view and edit the convention card.



To create your own convention cards, click on the "New ACBL Convention Card" button above, and start editing.

Be sure to add your partner's name and save the changes. It is a good idea to have your partner complete a convention card with your name on it. You need a new convention card for each partnership.



To edit a stock convention card, click on the card and make your changes. Be sure to name your convention card something you won't forget.



To access an opponent's convention card while playing at the table, click the three horizontal bars on the top left. Here you can view both the NS convention card and the EW convention card.



By Ruth M. Shuler

The Officers and Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to say to everyone “we greatly appreciate your continued support during these extraordinary times.”

A special thank you to Community Bridge Home members that have already sent in their \$50 yearly dues and donations for 2021 and to all bridge players that have mailed donations to help keep the Community Bridge Home afloat.

As we head toward the end of one year in which the pandemic has impacted our everyday lives in the “world of bridge,” your involvement was, and still is, very important and very much needed. These extraordinary times have continued to call for extraordinary measures at the Community Bridge Home.

Also, we would like to thank all bridge players who are participating in the weekly ABA/BBO online game benefitting the Community Bridge Home on Wednesdays at 11 am. What a blessing you all are.

Again, thank you everyone. Be blessed and stay safe.

Partners Under the Arch

By John Hagerdon

Although I originally joined the ACBL in the late 1970s, I did not play duplicate bridge for several decades. But in late 2014, my wife gave me an ACBL membership renewal as a retirement gift, and I began playing at the St. Louis Bridge Center (SLBC). It was there that I met Cheryl Ward.

For those who don't know her, Cheryl is an icon of bridge in St. Louis. A long-time member of the **American Bridge Association** (the historically Black bridge organization in the U.S.) she plays, mentors and holds leadership roles in the ABA, while also playing in ACBL games.

I occasionally played against Cheryl in ACBL events. We enjoyed each other's company and noticed we had similar bidding and playing styles. During this time, I joined the board of SLBC, one of the largest

and most successful clubs in the ACBL, and was, at that point, president of the board. Cheryl took the lead and suggested we play a game together.

This was when I got to display my total ignorance of the ABA and of all the wonderful players in the St. Louis area who were not playing in ACBL games. Cheryl invited me to join her at the ABA Midwestern Sectional in Chicago in 2019. There we met ABA President Hank Irwin, who brought us up to date on past and current discussions between the ABA and the ACBL to align the two organizations more closely. To make this happen in our area, it required finding a St. Louis ABA sponsor club to work with the St. Louis Bridge Center. This was after at least one earlier attempt at unity games in the early 2000s didn't materialize into anything meaningful, with the two groups holding only one joint game in a year.

Luckily, with the support of the University City ABA club and its president, Georgianna Jackson, there was a coming together of ABA and ACBL players in two evening "Unity Games" heavily attended by both groups in late 2019. At that time, the University City and SLBC Thursday evening games each attracted between three and six tables. The Unity games were able to attract 19 tables of participants. It was at this point that SLBC made a commitment to get more directly involved with the ABA. In addition to the eight or nine SLBC members who were already ABA members, SLBC encouraged more of its members to join the ABA in order to create an SLBC/ABA club.

Members of the SLBC and the ABA's Greater St. Louis Bridge Council continued to strengthen relationships after the Unity Games with:

- ◆ Free space for a three-day tournament director workshop for ABA and ACBL tournament directors from then-president Hank Irwin;
- ◆ ACBL TDs welcoming ABA TDs to shadow, discuss, visit and share;
- ◆ Increasing and continuing ABA/ACBL partnerships at local, sectional and national games;
- ◆ Increasing ABA/ACBL participation at their respective games;
- ◆ Providing pre-made boards and hand records for special games;
- ◆ A three-hour free workshop from nationally-respected teacher Bruce Greenspan at Richmond Heights Duplicate Bridge Club in St. Louis;
- ◆ Free-play certificates at the SLBC for raffles at the Midwestern ABA Sectional in St. Louis.

In January, 10 members of the SLBC joined the ABA. This allowed SLBC to coordinate with the local ABA to offer weekly Unity games where attendees could decide whether to play for ACBL or ABA points.

Sadly, this all came to a screeching halt as the pandemic set in. As things get back to normal, there will be an enhanced effort to expand on what was a hopeful alliance between the ABA and the ACBL, with regular events being supported by both organizations in St. Louis and elsewhere.



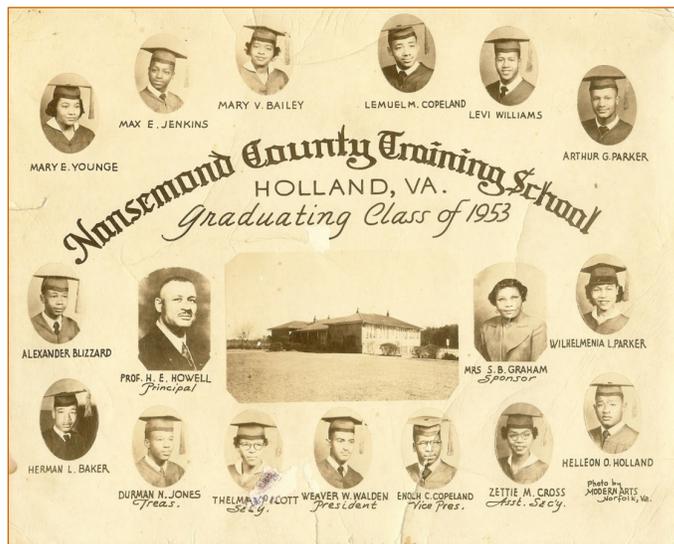
Black History, Up Close and Personal

In September 1942, thirteen six-year-old children entered the Nansemond County Training School in the Holland community of "Jim Crow" Nansemond County, Virginia, beginning a journey that neither they nor their parents envisioned possible even in their wildest dreams. All the children came from hard-working nuclear families, some of whom were tenant farmers, sharecroppers, day farm laborers and domestic workers who struggled just to feed and clothe their children, let alone ensuring that they attended school. Some had older family members still suffering the vestiges of slavery. Since there were no compulsory school attendance laws in Virginia for Black children at that time, it was common practice for children to be kept out of school for weeks at a time to do farm work, hired out to work the farms of white plantation owners, or to care for younger siblings.

Under the tutelage of eight amazing Black teachers and Professor H. E. Howell, the principal for 42 years, all 13 of these first-grade students advanced together to become members of the 1953 senior class.

The 1953 senior class includes Lemuel Copeland, a member of the Jet Setter Duplicate Bridge Club (aka vegasboy on BBO). Lemuel received a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia State College, a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and studied at Columbia University. He retired as an administrator in the New York City Human Resources Administration and as a Social Service Consultant in New York City. An avid traveler, Lemuel has visited all U.S. states, Canadian provinces and more than 50 countries.

The final four "boys" of the Class of 1953 planned to celebrate their 85th birthdays together in Virginia where they hoped to be joined by the two surviving girls of their class (Thelma Picott Warder and Roxanna Artis Walton), planned to visit the only surviving teacher (Mrs. Amanda Riddick Rodgers), and to pay homage to the only other surviving staff member at the school (Alfred "Jack" Copeland, age 96). Jack, Lemuel's brother, was the school bus driver during their senior year.



The "Final Four" of the Class of 1953: Alexander Blizzard (retired, U.S. Army), Lemuel Copeland, Herman Baker (retired, NYPD), Enoch Copeland (retired, school principal)



Condolences

Jet Setter
Grace Parris, on the loss of her brother
Mount Vernon
Charles Guest, on the loss of his cousin
Gloria Hobbs, on the loss of her brother
Twilight
Family of Enric Boxill



Metropolitan Bridge Unit Annual Membership Meeting January 23, 2021

Lynda Straker called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM and welcomed everyone to our first ZOOM virtual meeting. The membership was informed this was an informational meeting.

Roll Call –Present: Lynda Straker, Jean DeVeaux, Janice McBean, Sharon Fox, Raye Liverpool, Lois Wright, Charles Guest, and representatives from the following clubs: Astro, Bayview, Co-op City, Cosmo, Jet Setter, Mount Vernon, Springfield, Triangle, Twilight, and Westbury.

Good and Welfare - Prepared by Lois M. Wright – Email address: Ladytul2@netzero.net

January 2020

Barbara Wingate Cosmopolitan Get Well

Jane Harris Jetsetter Get Well

Martha Hewitt Astro Get Well

June Robinson Springfield Get Well

Victoria Williams Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of her Brother

Beverly Session-Kelly Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of her Mother

February 2020

Viola Waterman Family Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Sandra Surita Springfield Get Well

Calvin Bass Family Leisure Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Jane Harris Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of her Husband

June Robinson Springfield Get Well

Enric Q. Boxill Twilight Get Well

March 2020

Deloris Brooks Bayview Get Well

Lorelei Blackman Co-op City Sympathy Card-Passing of her Brother

Beverly Session-Kelly Jetsetter Get Well

Ernestine Myles Co-op City Sympathy Card-Passing of her Sister

Rudy Cummings Bayview Get Well

Phyllis Jones Bayview Get Well

Eugenia Bye Mount Vernon Get Well

Anderson Jones Mount Vernon Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Louise Shaw Mount Vernon Get Well

Minnie Goka Triangle Sympathy Card-Passing of her Sister

Minnie Goka Triangle Sympathy Card-Passing of her Brother-in-Law

Jeanne Simmons Mount Vernon Get Well

Dorothy Haime Family Triangle Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

April 2020

Jerry Cunningham Family Springfield Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Edwin Ward II Springfield Sympathy Card-Passing of his Daughter

Harvey Stone Family Cosmopolitan Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Dorene Christmas Brooklynite Get Well

Deloris Crosse Family Twilight Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Kenneth Thomas Twilight Sympathy Card-Passing of his Sister

Thomas Holloway Westbury Get Well

Traci Stukes Jetsetters Get Well

Eva DeLeon Bayview Get Well



May 2020

Sharon Fox Springfield Sympathy Card-Passing of her Nephew
Harold Edwards Family Bayview Sympathy Card Pending-Passing of Member
Queenie May Co-op City Sympathy Card-Passing of her Mother-in-Law
Paul Watford Twilight Sympathy Card-Passing of his Brother
Mayer Wiesen Westbury Get Well
Eva DeLeon Family Bayview Sympathy Card-Passing of Member
Cheryll Jones Cosmopolitan Sympathy Card-Passing of her Mother
Marcus Francis Family Cosmopolitan Sympathy Card-Passing of Former Member
Louise Shaw Family Mount Vernon Sympathy Card-Passing of Member
Viola Porter Mount Vernon Sympathy Card-Passing of her Sister

June 2020

Wilma Alexander Westbury Get Well
Anthony Toran Westbury Get Well
Ted Conliffe Westbury Get Well
William Russell Cosmopolitan Get Well

July 2020

June Robinson Family Springfield Sympathy Card-Passing of Member
William Russell Family Cosmopolitan Sympathy Card-Passing of Member
Paula Joseph Cosmopolitan Sympathy Card-Passing of her Mother

August 2020

Dr. Errol Grant Westbury Sympathy Card-Passing of his Brother
Thomas Holloway Westbury Get Well
Patricia Jackson Cosmopolitan Sympathy Card-Passing of her Cousin

September 2020

Barbara Jennings Triangle Sympathy Card-Passing of her Sister
Elmond Harley Mount Vernon Sympathy Card-Passing of his Brother
Sylvia Butler Family Co-op City Sympathy Card- Passing of Member
Jesse Palmer Twilight Sympathy Card-Passing of his Brother

October 2020

Millicent Jamison (Former Member of Jetsetter) Sympathy Card-Passing of her Son
Genesis Washington Co-op City Sympathy Card-Passing of his Wife
Betty Donerson Triangle Sympathy Card- Passing of her Son
Tracy Stukes Jetsetter Get Well
Lemuel Copeland Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of his Brother

October 2020 (Members & Former Members with Long-Term Illnesses)

Rudy Cummings Bayview Get Well
Phyllis Jones Bayview Get Well
Georgianna Rodriguez Co-op City Get Well
Mayer Wiesen Westbury Get Well
Jane Harris Jetsetter Get Well
Enric Q. Boxill Twilight Get Well

November 2020

Susie Polite Co-op City Sympathy Card-Passing of her Mother



December 2020

Shirley Stokeley Family Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of Former Member

Wilma Alexander Westbury Get Well

Dr. Gloria Hobbs Mount Vernon Get Well

Sandra Surita Springfield Get Well

Sylvia Yearwood Family Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Enric Q. Boxill Family Twilight Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

I Calvin Morris Family Jetsetter Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Betty Ball Twilight Sympathy Card-Passing of her Brother

Thank You Card from Beverly Session-Kelly:

“To MBU...We deeply appreciate your expressions of Sympathy. We are grateful for your Prayers and Thoughts.....From the Family of Ms. B. Session”

Thank You Card from Minnie Goka:

“Thank you for your generous support during this difficult time. We appreciate your prayers and love. Always.....The Bishop Family and Minnie”

Thank You Card from Dorene Christmas:

“To MBU President Lynda Straker & MBU Members, A little message meant to bring the warmest thanks to you today, and real appreciation too, that’s deeper than these words can say. But for the Grace of God, I feel much better. Peace & Love Dorene...Stay Safe”

Thank You Card from Harvey Stone’s Family / Lee and Tanya Stone:

“MBU Family, thanks for the lovely gift and card. My Father (and mother Trudy) enjoyed the camaraderie provided at the Bridge Club. We loved their after retirement full-on participation with such a great group of Folks. Love Always for what you do. ‘Stay Safe’..... Lee Stone”

Text from the Daughter of Deloris Crosse:

“Thank you so very much. We are surrounded by love through all kind words of encouragement, cards and prayers. We are holding on to the wonderful memories we have of our Mom. Mom loved her fellow Bridge Players; and we thank you in advance for a bereavement donation. GOD’S BLESSINGS.”

Thank You Card from the Family of Deloris Crosse:

“To The Metropolitan Bridge Unit / Community Bridge Home, the family of Deloris Crosse wish to thank you for your act of kindness in sending a bereavement donation. May God Bless You; as you have blessed us. Norma Rogers & Family”

Thank you Card from Paula Joseph and Family:

“Our Family sincerely thanks you for your prayers, words of comfort, and support during this time of bereavement.....The Joseph Family”

Thank you Card from the Family of June Robinson: *“During a time like this we realize how much our friends mean to us. Your kind expression of sympathy will always be remembered..... Thank you from the Robinsons”*

Thank you Card from Patricia Jackson and Family:

“Dear Metropolitan Bridge Unit President Lynda Straker and Metropolitan Bridge Unit Members. Thank you so much for your expressions of Sympathy; while my family and I were grieving over the passing of My Dear Cousin..... Love Pat Jackson.”

Thank you card from Elmond Harley:

“With Heartfelt Appreciation – To My Bridge Family....During such a difficult time, your kindness meant so much. Thank you for all your thoughtfulness and caring.”



Thank you Text from the Family of Dorothy Haime:
“Dear Members of the Triangle Bridge Club and Metropolitan Bridge Unit. My Aunt Marzella Dawkins, forwarded to me your generous check in memory of my mother Dorothy Haime. As you can imagine, her passing has been difficult for me and my family; however, we deeply appreciate your many cards, gifts and expressions of sympathy over these challenging months. Sadly, because of the pandemic, we have not been able to hold a ceremony to honor her passing. As soon as it is safe, we will hold an event to celebrate her amazing life.”



“Please note that she loved being a part of the Triangle Bridge Club and playing with her beloved sister, Marzella (no matter how much they bickered). She appreciated all of the new friends she made and looked forward to all of you every week.

Attached please find a picture of her with her granddaughter, Grace, taken at Thanksgiving last year.

Thank you again. Please take care and stay safe. I will be in touch again soon.
Best Regards,
Deatra Haime Anderson.”

Thank you card from the Granddaughter of William Russell:
“Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. My grandfather, William Russell, enjoyed the times he spent playing Bridge with you all. Again, thank you!!God blessed me in a special way through your thoughtfulness. Stay healthy and safe. Sincerely, Lakisha.”

Thank You Card from Betty Donerson and Family:
“To Metropolitan Bridge Unit c/o Lynda Straker. Thank you for your Kindness and Sympathy. We are forever grateful..... Betty D. and Family, Again, Thank You.”

Thank You Card from Susie Polite:
“To Metropolitan Bridge Unit (MBU)...Hello! Your kindness and generosity make this world a happy place. Thanks a million.....From Susie Polite and Clarence Polite.”

Thank You Card from The Palmer Family:
“A Special Thank You to Metropolitan Bridge Unit Members. Thanks for your support during this hard time. God Bless You!!.....Love and Peace from The Family.”



**A Special Message from
The Metropolitan Bridge Unit**

**“As We Welcome 2021..... Wishing You a
Year filled with Peace, Love and Joy”**



**METROPOLITAN BRIDGE UNIT (MBU)
2020 FINAL GRAND SLAMMERS**

- Anderson Jones (January) Mount Vernon*
- Calvin Bass (February) Leisure*
- Viola Waterman (February) Jetsetter*
- Dorothy Haima (March) Triangle*
- Jerry Cunningham (April) Springfield*
- Harvey Stone (April) Cosmopolitan*
- Deloris Crosse (April) Twilight*
- Harold Edwards (May) Bayview*
- Eva DeLeon (May) Bayview*
- Louise Shaw (May) Mount Vernon*
- June Robinson (July) Springfield*
- William Russell (July) Cosmopolitan*
- Sylvia Butler (September) Co-op City*
- Sylvia Yearwood (December) Jetsetter*
- I Calvin Morris (December) Jetsetter*



- MBU (Former Members)**
- Jimmy Pelham (July) Springfield*
 - Marcus Francis (May) Cosmopolitan*
 - Shirley Stokeley (December) Jetsetter*

Invocation – Made by Dr. Errol Grant.

Memorial Service – Lynda Straker thanked Rita Thompson for an excellent video presentation featuring our 2020 Final Grand Slammers. An attempt will be made to place the video on our website and to distribute to membership via email. Enric Boxill of Twilight DBC added to list of Grand Slammers.

Minutes – Minutes of the January 25, 2020 annual membership meeting were reviewed by the membership.

Correspondence – None.

President’s Report – Presented by Lynda Straker

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season, as joyful as it could be under the circumstances.

Everyone is wondering when we’ll be able to “return to normal” in every aspect of our lives and playing bridge is no exception. I can’t say when that will be. We’ll just have to stay informed and live as safely as we can. I personally feel playing duplicate bridge around the bridge table is “risky” behavior, so I am in no rush to push for an early return.

There are other ways to play bridge until our pandemic concerns are resolved. One way is to play bridge on BBO where you can choose to participate in competitive events or a variety of other bridge playing opportunities. People from around the world play on BBO and new players, intermediate players and skilled players play together. This is a new environment for MBU members and today we will be talking about an alternative.

The ABA is working with the MBU to schedule a weekly game just for members of the MBU on BBO. At this game, we’ll be able to play with people we know and with whom we share memories and history. We will need a minimum of six tables in order for BBO to host the game so I’m hoping the game will be popular among all of our members.

As I stated in *The Consumer*, the Board of Directors decided not to host our 2021 “AAA” due to health concerns; but we are planning on our 2022 “AAA.” If we can return to the bridge table by the beginning of 2022, we will be able to plan for our 2022 “AAA.” If we decide to hold the 2022 “AAA” at Resorts, the dates would be December 6 through December 9, 2022 – different dates than I indicated in *The Consumer*. I need to know where our membership will be



most interested in attending – Atlantic City (at Resorts) or Edison, New Jersey (at the Crown Plaza). You will have an opportunity to communicate your answer.

Based on a decision made by the Executive Committee, we will be making MBU BBO Player of the Year awards based on points earned during 2020.

Now, about the 2022 AAA. Rita, would you explain to everyone how to respond to the questions which are, “Will you plan to attend the 2022 AAA if held in Atlantic City?” And “Will you plan to attend the 2022 AAA if held in Edison, New Jersey?” You can answer “yes” to each question, “no” to each question or a different answer to each question.

And about the MBU Unit game on BBO, right now we have tentatively planned for the game to be held on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm. We are awaiting an okay from the ABA Board of Directors. Please respond to the survey question which is “Will you participate in the MBU Unit game held once weekly at 2:30 pm?”

I want to thank everyone for your membership in the MBU. We will need your support by paying dues and by participating in our events in order to remain a strong bridge club. I encourage everyone to stay safe, wear masks, social distance and wash your hands frequently. Hope to see you soon at the bridge table.

Next meeting: April 17, 2021.

A poll was taken to assist with planning a 2022 “AAA” in either Atlantic City or Edison, NJ. The results are:

Atlantic City 25 Yes 4 No Edison, NJ 17 Yes 12 No

A second poll was taken on membership interest in an MBU BBO game. The results are: 28 Yes 2 No

Point Coordinator Report – Lois Wright presented the 2020 MBU/BBO Player(s) of the Year

April 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020

| <u>Category</u> | <u>1st Place</u> | <u>2nd Place</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Asterisk | (41.08) Ann Brandwein | (20.07) Harvey Brandwein |
| Master | (40.51) Mary Sheppard | (29.51) Adrienne Faison |
| Life Master | (56.10) Raye Liverpool | (49.66) Rita Thompson |
| Sr. Life Master | (56.29) Patricia Jackson | (54.70) Lois M. Wright |
| Ruby | (56.34) Gwendolyn Leverett | (54.40) Barbara Wingate |
| Diamond | (143.24) William Wood, Jr. | (78.40) Valerie Brooks |
| Silver Diamond | (120.42) Charles Guest | (63.14) Ruth Shuler |
| Gold Diamond | (177.34) Allen L. Morton | (157.10) Lynda Straker |
| Platinum Diamond | (255.93) Parvez Mehta | (132.52) Cheryll Jones |
| Black Diamond | (59.87) Errol Grant | (1.85) I. Calvin Morris |
| Grand Life Master | (194.03) Julius C. Fields | N/A |

If the club point coordinator has any questions, please feel free to contact Lois at Ladytul2@netzero.net



Financial Secretary’s Report – Presented by Raye Liverpool

Metropolitan Bridge Unit of NY, Inc.
January 1 through December 31, 2020

| | First Quarter Totals | Second Quarter Totals | Third Quarter Totals | Fourth Quarter Totals | 2020 Totals |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Annual Dues | 1,540.00 | 190.00 | | | 1,730.00 |
| Annual Dues 2021 | | | | 130.00 | 130.00 |
| Entertainment Tax | 1,176.00 | 382.00 | 164.00 | | 1,722.00 |
| Good & Welfare | 240.00 | 40.00 | 125.00 | | 405.00 |
| Herman Huff | 340.00 | | | | 340.00 |
| Chase Bank Fee | 4.17 | | | | 4.17 |
| Bridge Home BBO Proceeds from ABA | | 122.63 | 1,466.76 | 668.08 | 2,257.47 |
| MBU Meeting Game | 470.00 | | | | 470.00 |
| Nationwide Game: | | | | | |
| Entry Fees | 445.00 | | | | 445.00 |
| 50/50 Proceeds | 25.00 | | | | 25.00 |
| Lunch Sales @ \$5/plate | 175.00 | | | | 175.00 |
| Total 2020 Income | 4,415.17 | 734.63 | 1,755.76 | 798.08 | 7,703.64 |
| 2019 Income Received | | | | | |
| Entertainment Tax | 752.00 | | | | 752.00 |
| Good & Welfare | 80.00 | | | | 80.00 |
| Herman Huff | 200.00 | | | | 200.00 |
| Total 2019 Income | 1,032.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,032.00 |
| Total Funds Re- ceived | \$5,447.17 | \$734.63 | \$1,755.76 | \$798.08 | \$8,735.64 |



THE CONSUMER

WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

| Expenses | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter | 2020 Totals |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Consumer | 380.17 | | 225.81 | 184.00 | 789.98 |
| Bridge Home Shed Rental | 210.00 | | | | 210.00 |
| Bridge Home Rental for Classes | 25.00 | | | | 25.00 |
| Bridge Home BBO Proceeds | | 122.63 | 1,466.76 | 668.08 | 2,257.47 |
| Bank Fees | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | | 12.00 |
| Stipend | 1,250.00 | | | | 1,250.00 |
| ABAecf | | 850.80 | | | 850.80 |
| Web Fees | 181.15 | 107.37 | 107.37 | 143.16 | 539.05 |
| Good & Welfare Supplies | | 63.46 | | 30.36 | 93.82 |
| Memoriums | | 250.00 | 150.00 | 100.00 | 500.00 |
| Sanctions | 111.60 | | | | 111.60 |
| Spring National Raffl | 225.00 | | | | 225.00 |
| Spring National Ad | 50.00 | | | | 50.00 |
| Nationwide Game: | | | | | |
| Director's Fee plus Hand Records | 65.00 | | | | 65.00 |
| Bridge Home Rental | 125.00 | | | | 125.00 |
| Sanction Fee | 240.00 | | | | 240.00 |
| Director's Supplies | 51.00 | | | | 51.00 |
| Lunch Purchase | 122.11 | | | | 122.11 |
| Total 2020 Ex-pense | 3,040.03 | 1,398.26 | 1,953.94 | 1,125.60 | 7,517.83 |
| 2019 Expenses | | | | | |
| Bridge Home | 150.00 | | | | 150.00 |
| Sanction | 326.40 | | | | 326.40 |
| Consumer | | | | 10.85 | 10.85 |
| ABAecf(UNCF proceeds) | 336.00 | | | | 336.00 |
| Total 2019 Ex-pense | 812.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10.85 | 823.25 |
| Total Expenses | \$3,852.43 | \$1,398.26 | \$1,953.94 | \$1,136.45 | \$8,341.08 |
| Net Income/Loss | \$1,594.74 | -\$663.63 | -\$198.18 | -\$338.37 | \$394.56 |

NOTES: March Nationwide does not include \$5 scrip received. Scrip on hand: \$656.00



Treasurer's Report – Presented by Sharon Fox

**Metropolitan Bridge Unit of NY, Inc.
 Annual Treasurer's Report
 January 1 through December 31, 2020**

Chase checking account

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Opening Balance | \$24,893.49 |
| Deposits | \$8,583.27 |
| Total | \$33,476.76 |
| | |
| Checks/fees paid | \$17,265.52 |
| | |
| Closing balance | \$16,211.24 |

checks paid/misc. expenses

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| \$547.05 | bank fees |
| \$2,257.47 | BBO proceeds to BH |
| \$923.46 | 2019/2020 consumer printing/mailings |
| \$350.00 | memoriums |
| \$93.82 | 2020 good and welfare expenses |
| \$336.00 | 2019 abaECF for UNCF |
| \$1,250.00 | 2020 MBU Exec. Board stipends |
| \$9,020.77 | 2019 AAA expenses |
| \$300.00 | 2019/2020 tournament fees/BH rental |
| \$850.80 | 2020 longest day donation to ABA |
| \$210.00 | 2020 MBU rental of BH shed |
| \$678.00 | 2019/2020 ABA sanctions |
| \$122.11 | 2020 collation |
| \$225.00 | 2020 ABA spring nati'l journal ad |
| \$50.00 | 2020 ABA spring nati'l raffles |
| \$51.04 | 2020 MBU printer ink |
| | |
| \$17,265.52 | Total |

**SHARON FOX
 MBU TREASURER**

Entertainment Tax – None.



Sectional Representative Report - none.

Property – none.

Constitution - none.

Scholarship – Presented by Valerie Brooks

No applicants for 2020.

Application deadline is 07/15/2021.

Tournament Report – None.

Consumer Report – Presented by Rita Thompson

Although we haven't played bridge together face-to-face in nearly one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the editing team for *The Consumer* and our reporters have continued to share MBU and club news with you. The January issue was emailed several weeks ago, and a limited number of hard copies were mailed to a few people. If you didn't receive the email, please contact me or Dolores Watson to provide your email address. Our contact information is on the Contacts page of the MBU website www.mbuinc.org.

An archive of past issues of *The Consumer* has been added to the MBU website.

Among the benefits of the digital copy sent by email and the copies on the website is that they include links.

On the first page of the January issue in Dolores Watson's article, there's a link to the artists performing the beautiful song we all heard during today's memorial service.

On page 6, there's a link to instructional videos to help players get acquainted with Bridge Base Online.

On page 9, there's a link to request a copy of the 2021 Herman Huff Scholarship application as well as links to the MBU website and bridgebase.com.

I hope you're reading *The Consumer* cover to cover since your editing team and reporters work hard to provide you with a quality publication. Thank you.

Lynda Straker and various unit members thanked *The Consumer* staff for a job well done and the production of a quality product.

Hospitality Report – None.

Website/Facebook – None.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – None.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday in April and July. In April, an Election Chairperson will be appointed.

Cheryll Jones informed the membership that COVID-19 vaccination appointments are available. You must be persistent when dialing in for an appointment.

All dues (ABA, ES, MBU, and club) must be paid for a member to be considered financial.

Meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm

Respectfully submitted by Janice McBean, MBU Secretary



2021 HERMAN HUFF SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, the Metropolitan Bridge Unit awards \$500 grants to two undergraduate students. The minimum eligibility requirement is having completed at least three semesters of their continuing education towards a four-year degree by June 2021. Students who meet this requirement can request an application from Valerie Brooks at 718.219.2512 or mbusolar@gmail.com.

Completed applications are due by July 15, 2021.
Award recipients will be notified by August 1, 2021.



THE CONSUMER
WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

www.mbuinc.org Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

**Submissions for the
July 2021 issue
are due June 15**

Thank you to our reporters.

EDITORS

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Annetta Wallace 718.723.3983

Eastern Section
American Bridge Association
www.abaeas.org
www.ababridge.org