



# THE CONSUMER

## WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

[www.mbuinc.org](http://www.mbuinc.org)

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

January 2025



## President's Message

By Marcia Demos

Happy New Year Metropolitan Bridge Unit!

We start the New Year with a new slate of officers, and with them, come different talents and ideas and perhaps a new and exciting direction for our unit.

Before I became MBU president, I got to know bridge players one way; but when I collaborated with them in meetings and on projects and programs, I got to know them differently. I learned who worked well with others. I discovered whom I could depend on, and I found those from whom I could learn. I also found out that there were the complainers, those who did not work to create harmony, but discord instead.

Our country is entering a period of uncertainty. We must make sure that our bridge world does not mirror that uncertainty. We must learn to pull together, do more with less and to be proactive, instead of reactive. We must make sure that we build up, not tear down, and we must realize that by doing nothing, we cannot make progress.

In the last two years, I have done most of what I had promised I would do. I said that I would work hard for you, and I have. I have tried to help make the MBU an organization that we could be proud of. I learned as much as I could from others to get the job done and I spent time with the bylaws of the MBU, the Eastern section, and with the ABA Nationals to get the job done.

I said that there would be transparency in all of our actions, and all of our executive board meetings were open to all MBU members so that all could hear and see the process and know how decisions were made firsthand. I visited all of our clubs multiple times.

I introduced Zero Tolerance to the unit to help make all our games a calmer and less stressful experience.

The MBU stood with members and family members that suffered losses and I represented you at services that took me all the way from Westbury to Westchester County.

The 2024 AAA tournament was a big success and I judged that by the responses of the participants from outside of the Greater New York area. Everyone I spoke to seemed to have a great time. They

enjoyed our "prizes and surprises" and I want to thank all the clubs that donated the bottles of sparkling cider that were given to players who registered early. There were also many gifts that were given away as door prizes, given as the surprises, to add an air of holiday spirit.

The brunch that we had was well received. The decorations were done by Steven Bond, the music was provided by Janice McBean and the comedian, Julio Diaz, was a big hit (thank you Valerie and Christian).

The best news of all from the AAA was that by cutting costs and with careful spending, we came in on budget. I must thank all the AAA patrons, and others who donated money, time and talent for making the tournament a success.

It is my hope that bridge will continue to be strong in our unit, and I appreciate our new officers for their willingness to accept the responsibilities in our MBU. I ask all of you to take a little piece of the work in the year 2025 and that will make it an easier year for the whole unit.

See you around the table!



## Herald in 2025

By Dolores Watson

As we step fresh into 2025, we reflect on the past year's current events, and we can conclude that we are living in exciting times filled with dramatic change.

The Metropolitan Bridge Unit of New York is pleased to announce the first General Membership meeting of the year on **January 21, 2025**, at the Community Bridge Home. At this time, Eastern Section Vice President Lynda Straker will install our newly elected Executive Board officers who will serve a two-year term. The Unit



will acknowledge our 2024 Final Grand Slammers with invocation and the memorial candle lighting ceremony. Please mark your calendar to attend.

Fiscal prudence to budget expenditures and how to increase income will be a priority. The membership will vote on whether to increase the MBU entertainment tax. The voting results may have an impact on the 2025 AAA Tournament scheduled for December.

The AAA tournament in December 2024 at Resorts Casino & Hotel in Atlantic City was successful. Various fundraising drives and the members sponsorship program enabled the AAA Awards Luncheon to include a festive entertainment segment. The comedy fundraiser invited three comedians to compete at the Community Bridge Home and the audience selected a winner who would perform at the awards luncheon. All comedians were good, but Julio Diaz was the favorite. He did a fantastic job with his pure comedy routine. Many thanks to Valerie Brooks, AAA chairperson, and all who facilitated the event.

The American Bridge Association Membership Committee has produced podcasts on the YouTube platform featuring interviews with our dear Dr. Gloria Hobbs, of the DBC of Mount Vernon and our youngest member Liam Samples, grandson of Sharon Fox of the Springfield DBC. The committee welcomes recommendations for interesting people who love the game of bridge to participate in upcoming podcasts. You may contact ABA Membership Chair Rita Thompson on this matter.

The Community Bridge Home has free on-going bridge classes on Thursdays (9:30 am to 11:30 am) with instructor Annetta Wallace.

A happy and healthy new year to all!

## Bayview Breeze

By Valerie Brooks

Happy new year! We are off to another great year of the game we love.

Gratitude to all the AAA attendees and congratulation to all of the winners!

Save the date for our Spring C Game:

Date: Tuesday, April 29  
Lunch: 11 am  
Game Time: 12 pm

Welcome to our new member, Dennis Papper. Happy birthday wishes to Christian Baxter, Ruth Brennan, Larry Gutman, Dennis Papper, Sylvia Simmons, Patricia Thomas and Donna Woo. Get well soon, Rudy Cummings.

See you all on the first and third Tuesdays of the year.

God bless us all!

## Brooklynites

By Dorene Christmas

Season greetings, Bridge Family. This year has been very interesting and rewarding for me as President of the Brooklynites DBC. The support came from the MBU and its members. You know who you are, I have thanked you many times. I will thank Janice McBean again; she has always sent out the Brooklynites Blast at extremely short notice.

Brooklynites have lost many memberships, but the members that are here play an important role in keeping the club doors open with the continuous support of the MBU members. I know we must support each other's club to keep this association continuing and growing.

I would like to acknowledge and keep several of our members in prayer:  
Mildred Adams our Vice President, John Clark, Leon Roland, and Terrance Drayon.

Attending the Eastern Sectional was a great way to bring in the holiday season. It was a lot of fun, some of us got points and had a lot of laughs.

Finally, I wish to recognize our members who received rewards at the Eastern Sectional: Mary Lewis, Terrance Drayon, and Dorene Christmas.

Please join us at 1:00 p.m. on Fridays, at 625 Quincy Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Alternate side parking ends at 12:30 p.m. We will be celebrating our 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday January 24, 2025. Collation will be served at 12:00 p.m.

A healthy and happy new year to all. Peace, love, and many blessings.

## Cosmopolitan DBC

By Steven Bond

As we start the new year, we look forward to the continuing increase in attendance at our in-person games, and we thank each and every one of you who have supported COSMO throughout the past year.

CONGRATULATIONS to Steven Bond and Ronald Prester whose team came in first in the MBU "AAA" Section B BAM, as well as placing in other games.

Our special game schedule for 2025 will begin with our Holiday "C" Game on January 16th. Lunch will be at 11:15 am, with game time at 12 noon, and the playing fee will be \$13. This will be followed by our Herman Huff Scholarship "B" game on February



20th, a Team "C" Game on May 1st, and our Juneteenth President's "C" game on June 19th, each with a playing fee of \$12. We look forward to seeing each of you at all of them. In addition, there will be two special club games, an Individual Game on February 6th, and a Mentor/Mentee game on March 20th. We hope to see you at both.

WELCOME to our new members: Vernetta Nelson, Fabienne Jean-Louis and Jacqueline Andrews.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Beverly Riley in January, Therese Hamilton and Doris White in March, Fabienne Jean-Louis in April, Martha Hewitt and Vernetta Nelson in May, and Cheryl Jones and Ruth Shuler in June.

As life moves on in our "new normal," we must still remember to take care and be safe.

## Jet Setter DBC

By Beverly Session-Kelly

The COVID epidemic and the aging of our members have caused a significant decrease in Jet Setter club membership and participation. However, Jet Setters continue to still stand tall in bridge competitions.



At the most recent Eastern Section Tournament in Dover, Delaware, the team of Lemuel Copeland (Jet Setters), Ronald Prester (Cosmo), Marcia Demos (Springfield), Philippe Gerdes (Cosmo) finished in first place in the team competition.

At the December MBU AAA in Atlantic City, Beverly Session-Kelly was a member of the winning team competition.

Lemuel Copeland continues to check off items on his travel Bucket List. He celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday with a safari to Kenya in April, flying First Class for the first time.

## Kings County DBC

By Lois Francis

The newest club, Kings County DBC joins you with pleasure in duplicate bridge games starting January 8, 2025. This club has an ABA Charter, an IRS Tax ID, a NYS Business Certificate, and Bylaws. We will support you in any way that we can, and pray that you will welcome and be supportive of Kings County DBC.

Our club is starting with 21 members and 19 associates. The club thanks Twilight DBC for arranging to share space. They play 1st

and 3rd Wednesdays. Kings County DBC will play in that space 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. We pledge to continue teaching the game and inviting members to the ABA, Eastern Section, and the MBU. By God's grace we will have a Consumer reporter shortly. Kings County DBC invites all bridge players to join us 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month for breakfast before the bridge game at 10 am and for lunch at 12:15 pm.

## DBC of Mount Vernon

By Rita Thompson

Our beloved **Dr. Gloria Hobbs** celebrated her milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 14, 2024. Friends and family traveled from near and far to celebrate the occasion with her at Maestro's Catering Hall on December 13. Many paid tribute to Gloria by posting on the Celebrating Dr. Gloria Hobbs at 100 "kudoboard" which you can view at the following link: [Tributes to Dr. Hobbs](#). What's more, it's not too late to add your tribute and best wishes. Check it out!

The club's annual scholarship initiative has been renamed the Gloria Lindsay Hobbs Scholarship.



President **Charles Guest** was among the honorees featured at the 42nd Annual Senior Hall of Fame on Friday, December 6, 2024 at the Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, New York. The event is sponsored by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services.

Congratulations to our 2024 MBU/BBO Players of the Year: **Rita Thompson** (First Place, Senior Life Master), **Charlotte Roberson** (First Place, Diamond) and **Parvez Mehta** (Second Place, Black Diamond).

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Alfred Knight** who has been away from the tables in recent weeks. Your cards and notes will brighten his day.

## Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

Happy holidays and a healthy and prosperous new year to us all.

Happy birthday goes out to Marcia Demos (January), Edwin Ward II and Stefanie Straker (February), Marion Mercer, James McKeon and Lynda Straker (March), Janice McBean and Sharon Fox (May), Diana Green (June). We hope your celebrations will be memorable.



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Our deepest sympathy to Lynda Straker (Eastern Section VP) in the passing of her husband Eric on December 28, 2024. Also, Eliza Brann's husband is in a rehabilitation facility to manage his health. Our continued prayers and support to both families.

We look forward to continuing hosting bridge games on alternate Thursdays at the Community Bridge Home.

## Westbury DBC

**By Pat Binyard**

Happy 2025, bridge family. We are so blessed to see a new year. Our new Yeyr wish for our bridge family is good health and happiness.

We were closed for the year-end holidays, but our doors are now open. Our club meets on Saturdays at the "Yes We Can" Center (141 Garden Street, Westbury, NY) at 11 am. Dr. Errol Grant will continue to provide "play of the hand lessons" at 11:15 and our game will start at 12 pm sharp.

On Wednesdays, our President, Dr. Alverna Lewis, will be teaching both new and Intermediate bridge lessons at the center. Classes will run from 10 am-1 pm. Please check your emails from the MBU for potential closures, in case of inclement weather.

### *Metropolitan Bridge Unit of New York 2025-2026 Officers*

*President  
Charles Guest*

*Vice President  
Valerie Brooks*

*Secretary  
Janice McBean*

*Treasurer  
Raye Liverpool*

*Financial Secretary  
Philippe Gerdes*

*Sectional Representative  
Patricia Binyard*

*Point Coordinator  
Lois Wright*

## METROPOLITAN BRIDGE UNIT 2024 "AAA" SPONSORS

### STAR PATRON \$100+

VALERIE BROOKS  
JOHN AND MARCIA DEMOS  
DIANA GREEN  
ELIJAH SEABROOK  
SPRINGFIELD DBC  
RITA THOMPSON

### PATRON PLUS \$51-\$99

LENNY BINYARD  
PAT BINYARD  
MINNIE HAGANS  
MARILYN LeGALL  
MARION MERCER  
LYNDA STRAKER  
DOLORES WATSON

### PATRON \$50

CHRISTINE BLOUNT  
BROOKLYNITES DBC  
DORENE CHRISTMAS  
YVONNE EBEA  
M. ERROL GRANT  
CALVIN HEWITT  
GLORIA L. HOBBS, Ph.D.  
CHERI LIGHTFOOT  
JANICE McBEAN  
DBC OF MOUNT VERNON  
IN MEMORY OF MOSES AND  
EVELYN SMALLWOOD  
DORIS WHITE

### DONATIONS UNDER \$50

EDNA BOOTHE  
SHARON FOX  
CHARLES GUEST  
CHERYLL JONES  
GWENDOLYN LEVERETT  
RAYE LIVERPOOL  
TERESA STAHLING

*Thank you for  
your support.*



**By Lois M. Wright**

The Board Members of Community Bridge Home, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to say to everyone, "we greatly appreciate your continued support."

A "Special Thank You" to CBH Members that have sent in their \$50 Yearly Dues and Special Donations for 2024 and to all bridge players that have sent donations to help keep the Community Bridge Home afloat.

The CBH Board Members continue to extend a "Special Thank You" to Ms. Annetta Wallace for donating her time and effort preparing and instructing "Bridge Classes by Annetta" on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.



## 2025 MBU SCHEDULE OF GAMES\*

January 16	Cosmo Holiday Party "C"	June 9	Mt. Vernon "C"
January 21	MBU Meeting & Game "A+"	June 19	Cosmo Juneteenth Presidents' "C"
January 24	Brooklynites Club Anniversary "C"	July 2	Twilight "C"
January 28	Jetsetters "C"	July 31	Cosmo Bridge Home Benefit "B"
February 13	Springfield "C"	August 8-16	<a href="#">ABA Summer National</a>
February 20	Cosmo Herman Huff "B"	September 5	Brooklynites HQ Benefit "B"
March 5	<a href="#">ABA Nationwide</a>	September 15	Mt. Vernon "C"
March 10	DBCMV "C"	September 18	Cosmo Club Anniversary "C"
March 13	Springfield "C"	September 26	<a href="#">ABA Nationwide</a>
March 22	Westbury "C"	October 1	Twilight "C"
April 5- 11	<a href="#">ABA Spring National</a>	October 9	Springfield UNCF "B"
April 16	Twilight "C"	October 17	Brooklynites UNCF
April 23	Kings County "B"	October 22	Kings County UNCF
April 29	Bayview "C"	November 6	Cosmo U/300 "C"
May 1	Cosmo Team Game "C"	November 11	Bayview Thanksgiving "C"
May 9	Brooklynites Quincy Benefit "B"	December 8-11	"AAA" Tournament
May 13	Jetsetters "C"	December 12	<a href="#">ABA Nationwide</a>
May 19-22	<a href="#">Eastern Spring Fling</a>	December 16	Bayview "C"

\*This schedule is subject to adjustment. Club presidents and tournament chairs, if you don't see a game you scheduled, contact John Demos.

## BRIDGE CLUB SCHEDULE

MONDAY	MOUNT VERNON	Lunch at 12:00 pm Lesson at 1 pm Game at 1:30 pm	Vernon Manor 30 Ehrbar Avenue Mount Vernon, NY 10552
TUESDAY	BAYVIEW & JET SETTERS	Open at 11 am Light Snack Game at 12 pm	Community Bridge Home 120-50 Springfield Blvd Cambria Heights, NY 11411
WEDNESDAY	TRIANGLE	Open at 10 am Game at 10:30 am Lunch \$1.50	Central Harlem Senior Center 210 West 131st Street New York, NY 10027
WEDNESDAY (1st & 3rd)	TWILIGHT	12:15 pm Lunch (\$1) Game at 1 pm	Fort Greene Senior Center 196 Albany Avenue Brooklyn, NY
WEDNESDAY (2nd & 4th)	KINGS COUNTY	Game at 10 am 12:15 pm Lunch (\$1)	Fort Greene Senior Center 196 Albany Avenue Brooklyn, NY
THURSDAY	COSMO & SPRINGFIELD	Open at 11 am Light Snack/Lunch Game at 12 pm	Community Bridge Home 120-50 Springfield Blvd Cambria Heights, NY 11411
FRIDAY	BROOKLYNITES	Lunch at noon Game at 12:30 pm	625 Quincy Street, 1st Floor Brooklyn, NY 11221
SATURDAY	WESTBURY	Open at 11 am Light Snack Game at 12 pm	"Yes We Can" Community Center 141 Gardner Street Westbury, NY 11590



## *With Deepest Sympathy*

*Our heartfelt condolences to Lynda Straker on the loss of her husband,  
Eric Jonathan Straker.*

*May Lynda find strength and  
comfort in the support and  
love from all those around her.*

## **DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB OF MOUNT VERNON**



With heavy hearts, and much sadness, we share the news that our beloved long-time member and friend Alfred Knight has passed away.

Funeral service will be at 10 am Friday, February 14, 2025. Viewing: 9 am-10 am. Wake Eden Baptist Church, 2074 Strang Avenue, Bronx, NY 10466.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Pauline Knight, 1190 Webster Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804.



## **JANUARY**

MARCIA DEMOS  
BEVERLEY RILEY  
SYLVIA SIMMONS

## **FEBRUARY**

RUTH BRENNAN  
HARRY GAINES  
THOMAS HOLLOWAY  
PARVEZ MEHTA  
PEGGY PAIR  
DARYL POWELL  
CLARENCE SCHMIDT  
BEVERLY SESSION  
FANNIE SMITHS  
STEFANIE STRAKER  
RHONDA PHOENIX-TILDON  
HARRIET WALCOTT  
EDWIN WARD II

## **MARCH**

ANN BRANDWEIN  
LEMUEL (BILL) COPELAND  
MINNIE HAGANS  
THERESE HAMILTON  
JOHN HOPKINS  
MARY LEWIS  
JAMES McKEON  
MARION MERCER  
LYNDA STRAKER  
DOLORES THOMPSON  
DORIS WHITE

## **APRIL**

ERROL GRANT  
CHARLES GUEST  
LARRY GUTMAN  
FABIENNE JEAN-LOUIS  
DEBORAH MABRY  
KATHLEEN MARSHALL  
CHARLOTTE ROBERSON  
DONNA WOO

## **MAY**

HARVEY BRANDWEIN  
SHARON FOX  
MARTHA HEWITT  
ALICIA MAPP  
JANICE McBEAN  
VERNETTA NELSON  
DENNIS PAPPER  
GRACE PARRIS  
PATRICIA THOMAS

## **JUNE**

CHRISTIAN BAXTER  
LENNY BINYARD  
DIANA GREEN  
ELMOND HARLEY  
CHERYLL JONES  
DONNA LEWIS  
RUTH SHULER  
DELIUS WILSON



## Officers, Committee Chairs and Club Presidents

### OFFICERS

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