



# THE CONSUMER

## WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

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

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

July 2024



## President's Message

By Marcia Demos

Hello MBU family!

We are halfway through the year and we have already had a National tournament, a sectional, two nationwide games and many other sanctioned games and club games. How many of these games did you attend? How many chances did you have to get together with your bridge brothers and sisters to share a few hours of "stress free" competition?

Unfortunately, I can also count the many times we have had to come together to hold families and each other up through the losses we have all suffered. Today I ask that you remember to reach out to our friends who are unable to get out to be at the tables any longer because of illness or other circumstances. We have to be family in more than name only.

Looking forward, we still have many more games to play this year, and we still have the MBU's famous tournament to plan for and produce. We need fundraisers, people to help decorate, gift wrappers, and members to transport materials and supplies. What can you do to help make our AAA in December a success?

There is also an election to be held for next year's MBU officers. Please let the committee on nominations know the names of members who have the gifts and ability to serve in an office in the next term. The chairperson of that committee is Gwendolyn Leverett.

I want to recognize the teachers and directors who help make our Unit thrive. Alverna Lewis in Westbury, and Annetta Wallace and Cheryll Jones in Queens have had classes that have brought new members to our clubs. Our directors John and Annetta have given us games that run as smooth as silk. I would also like to give a special shout out to Christian Baxter who has worked his first tournament. Our fearless new director has made us all proud.

In the days of summer since the days are long and warm, get out to the "cooling center" that is your bridge club and spend a few hours with friends.

See you around the table!

## "Bridgedom"

By Dolores Watson

Welcome to the MBU Consumer's semiannual edition of good news that has happened or will happen in 2024. Although this article is a recap of the many plans, games and major events, it will serve as a reminder of what goes on in "Bridgedom."

The Eastern Section initiated two fund raisers, the first in January, a Super Bowl Sunday game grid and then a raffle sales drive in March which awarded prize money of \$500, \$300 and \$100 for winners in first, second and third place. The opportunity to take a chance was extended to members and their associates. More fundraising events are in the planning for the fabulous AAA Tournament scheduled for December at Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. AAA Committee Chairperson Valerie Brooks encourages all to participate.

There was positive feedback from Christian Baxter, assistant director at the Spring Fling held in Atlantic City in late May, who reported that players experienced no wait lines to register for games. During the General Membership Meeting, Vice President Lynda Straker communicated that players would be able to register and pay for all games they wished to play at one time.

We recognize the importance of Alzheimer Research and continue our support for the "Longest Day" on June 21, by contributing game proceeds to the Alzheimer Association.

All players have access to bridge lessons from Annetta Wallace. However, inexperienced players do have her focus. Starting in July, on the ABA/BBO platform she will have online bridge classes. After the online games, participants will have the opportunity to review and ask questions at the in-person bridge class instructions on Thursdays (9:30-11:30 AM), held at the Community Bridge Home in Queens.

Ms. Wallace would like to stir interest for mentor/mentee partnerships that will combine experience with inexperience where mentor has a willingness to share, to be patient and to have the mentee feel comfortable at the table. As this develops, you will hear more.





## Bayview Breeze

**By Valerie Brooks**

Greetings and thank you to all who attend our Tuesday club games.

Congratulations to the winners of our recent successful Eastern Sectional and Nationwide Games.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Celebrate the holidays with us!

**PRE-THANKSGIVING C GAME:**

Date: Tuesday, November 12th

Lunch Time: 11am

Game Time: 12pm

**HOLIDAY/END OF YEAR C GAME:**

Date: Tuesday, December 17th

Lunch Time: 11am

Game Time: 12pm

Plan to attend our own AAA event on Monday, December 9th through Thursday, December 12th at Resorts Casino for \$55 plus tax per night.

Happy Birthday to Valerie Brooks (7/20), Rudy Cummings (7/26) and Marilyn LeGall (12/27). Warm get well wishes to Rudy Cummings.

Be safe and thoroughly enjoy the rest of this year!

## Brooklynites Passing the Torch

**By Dorene Christmas**

Our resolute President, Lois Francis, and Vice President, John Hopkins, who have served with passion and commitment, have decided to step down this year for personal reasons. They have left a well-organized structure and a strong legacy for the newly elected President, Dorene Christmas, to continue. With Dorene at the helm, we are confident that the spirit of our club will continue to thrive.

Lois recruited members and taught bridge at various housing complexes, senior citizen centers, and churches. She is very creative, computer savvy, and knows how to get things done. Last but not least, Lois is fearless in speaking her mind, be it an individual, the Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc., or The American Bridge Association, especially when it comes to bridge and the rights of its members. She reminds me of the African myths of the fox, wise and benevolent.

Under Lois's exceptional leadership, the Brooklynites Duplicate Bridge Club has not just grown, but flourished. We have attracted 22 charter members from across the country and 19 associate members. This remarkable growth is a testament to the strong community she has built and the inspiring legacy she leaves behind.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Lois Francis for her exceptional leadership and dedication. Her efforts have led to the growth and success of the Brooklynites Duplicate Bridge Club. I also want to thank those who have supported me in this new position, including Christian Baxter, Marcia and John Demos, Lois Wright, Janice McBean, Valerie Brooks, and Patricia Jackson. To all the members of the Brooklynites, thank you for your continued support and blessings.

Peace and love!

## Cosmopolitan DBC

**By Steven Bond**

As we move into the second half of the year, we appreciate and thank each and every one of you who have supported COSMO throughout the first half of the year.

Our 2024 special game schedule will continue with our Bridge Home Benefit "B" Game on July 18<sup>th</sup>, with a playing fee of \$12. This will be followed by our Anniversary "C" game on September 19<sup>th</sup>; and a HALLOWEEN "C" game on October 31<sup>st</sup>. In all cases, lunch will be at 11:15 am, with game time at 12 noon. We look forward to seeing each of you at all of them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to Dorene Rose, Theresa Stahling, Annetta Wallace and Lois Wright in July; Pat Jackson, Paula Joseph, Edna Moses, and Ronald Prester in August; Philippe Gerdes and Calvin Hewitt in September; Steven A. Bond in October; Kathleen Dendy, Terry-Arlene Marshall and Diane Edgerton-Norman in November; and John Demos in December.

As we enjoy a more "normal" life these days, we need to continue to take care and be safe.

## Jet Setter DBC

**By Beverly Session-Kelly**

Happy Summer, Bridge Family.

If you did not attend the Spring National Tournament or the Eastern Sectional Tournament you missed a good time. The Spring National Tournament took place in Baltimore at the Live Hotel and Casino. What a beautiful place. There were many great restaurants from budget to pricey and a mall for those who love to shop. Of course, there were bridge games which were challenging.



Then we had the Eastern Sectional Tournament which was held at our old stomping grounds at the Resorts Hotel and Casino. The MBU showed up big time. We had a grand old time.

Congratulations to all the winners.

## DBC of Mount Vernon

By Rita Thompson



Dorothy Smith celebrated her 90th birthday on July 4<sup>th</sup>, a significant milestone, and a special occasion to honor. Dorothy's vibrant spirit and wisdom have touched the lives of many around her. Let's join together in congratulating Dorothy on joining the ranks of nonagenarians and send her our warmest wishes for many more joyful years ahead.

Congratulations to our long-time member Parvez Mehta on attaining Black Diamond status during the 2024 Eastern Section Spring Fling in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Parvez is one of the ABA's top players, and he often provides bridge lessons before our regular Monday club games. He was presented with a plaque to honor this achievement.



DBCVM Vice President Harvey Brandwein is a published author. His new book, *30,000 Home Runs*, about his two decades in the sports memorabilia business, includes stories never before published about some of the greatest athletes. It is now available online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

The DBCVM Scholarship Committee, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, presented three graduating seniors from high schools in Mount Vernon, New York with \$500 stipends to assist with college expenses. Kudos to our Committee Chairperson Gloria Hobbs, and committee members Ann Brandwein, Charles Guest and Dolores Thompson for a job well done.

## Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

We wish those clubs who are on vacation a relaxing and peaceful summer. The Summer National will soon be here, so bridge players study harder and bring home those high points. Thank you, Annetta Wallace for your dedicated teaching every Thursday at the Bridge Home. Your classes are very much appreciated.

We are overjoyed at having large turnouts at our games on Thursdays following our classes and thank all who came. Congratulations and blessings to Mary Luter on her August 27th birthday. We hope the day will be a memorable one filled with the presence of friends and family's laughter and good wishes.

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our new members, Doreen and Monique Davis. We're very glad you've joined us and look forward to seeing you at the table to reinforce what you have already learned.

We pray for our President, Marion Mercer, and her family in the loss of her husband, John. Marion, we are your extended family and as such we will attempt to support you as best we can. May you see God's presence in those around you! Condolences are extended to Julia Rinehardt's family. Her pleasant and friendly disposition will always be remembered, and her smiling encouragement will remain with us.

Have a great summer, stay healthy and safe.

## Westbury DBC

By Patricia Binyard

Hello, Bridge Family. This month we are celebrating Life. If we look all around us we see the beauty of life. Flowers in first bloom, trees freshly dressed, and the sun is at its brightest.

We are excited to introduce to our bridge family our newest members: Lillieth Chambers, Nicole Ellerbe, Murrene Glenn, Elaine Pryce and our returning member Linda Schoch bringing our roster to 21 plus five associate members. We greatly appreciate those who helped bring some of the people to our club (Lynda Straker and Janice McBean) and with the help of our membership we continue to grow bringing forth new perspectives and extending the life of our community.

We celebrated Donna Lewis and Lenny Binyard birthdays in June and will be celebrating the following birthdays in the coming months:

- July - Denise Thompson
- September - Alverna Lewis and Pat Binyard
- October- Edna Boothe and Cynthia Bohanan

Our cherished member Jeraldine Odoms transitioned on May 20, 2024 at the age of 90. Her generosity, perseverance, kindness, love of her church and the Bible will always be remembered. We will forever miss her. The memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on August 10, 2024 at the "Yes We Can" Center from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.





## It's the Place to Be

By Beverly Session-Kelly

The Community Bridge Home is hosting two fundraising events. The first fundraiser is the Paint and Sip event scheduled for June 28



from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The tickets are \$40. Come join us and show off your creative side while sipping on wine, champagne or something a little stronger or lighter. Enjoy finger food and smooth music.

If you can't make that event, then come out on Saturday, July 13 from 12 noon to 5:00 pm for our BBQ. Tickets are \$20. There will be a silent auction, "The Price is Right" game with prizes and a 50/50 raffle. I almost forgot - FOOD.

If you want to have fun, the Community Bridge Home is the place to be.



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 already 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.

Again, thanks to everyone for your continued support to help keep the Community Bridge Home up and running.

Be blessed and stay safe.



Members gather for a photo at the 2024 Eastern Section Spring Fling in Atlantic City, New Jersey



**TWELVE MIGRANT MEN**

**BY BILL COPELAND**

This photo was recently shared with me by Linda Copeland, the daughter of my cousin, George Copeland. I do not recall the time and place of this specific gathering. Linda said she took the photo as a teenager in the early 1960's at a Sunday afternoon football watching party hosted by her father at their home in Jersey City.

All twelve of us were part of the Great Migration. We were all farm boys from Holland, Virginia. All attended the Nansemond County Training School and were members of one of the three local churches: Corinth Chapel, Laurel Hill and Mt. Sinai. Without exception, these twelve men all lived the "American Dream." They are proud of their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren. (Not a "screw-up" or miscreant in the bunch.) I am the only survivor. The blessings continue.

*Condolences*

**Bayview**  
To Valerie Brooks on the loss of her sister,  
Delores Brooks

**Springfield**  
To Marion Mercer Brown, on the loss of her  
husband, John Brown

To the family of Julia Rinehardt

**Triangle**  
To the family of Barbara Jennings

**Twilight**  
To Mary Shepperd on the loss of her  
mother, Pearl Bostic

To the family of Eleanor Waymer

**Westbury**  
To the family of Jeraldine Odoms



**JULY**

- Mildred Adams
- Valerie Brooks
- Rudy Cummings
- Leonard Hawthorne
- Joan Maier
- Nathalie McFarlane
- Aquilla Middleton
- Bettye Peppers
- Elaine Pryce
- Doreen Rose
- Dorothy Smith
- Theresa Stahling
- Denise Thompson
- Annetta Wallace
- Lois Wright

**AUGUST**

- Thomas Daly
- Norma Holder
- Patricia Jackson
- Paula Joseph
- Alfred Knight
- Mary Luter
- Edna Moses
- Beanetta Murphy
- Viola Porter
- Ronald Prester



**SEPTEMBER**

- Pat Binyard
- Lois Francis
- Philippe Gerdes
- Calvin Hewitt
- Alverna Lewis

**OCTOBER**

- Jane Atlas
- Cynthia Bohanan
- Steven A. Bond
- Edna Boothe
- Inez Lambert

**NOVEMBER**

- Ersaline Callender
- Dorene Christmas
- Kathleen Dendy
- Diane Edgerton-Norman
- Connie Freeman
- Terry-Arlene Marshall
- Susan Samtur
- Rita Thompson

**DECEMBER**

- John Demos
- Gloria Hobbs
- Marilyn Legall
- Leon Roland
- Elinor Williams
- Patricia Williams
- William Wood, Jr.





**METROPOLITAN BRIDGE UNIT**  
**“AAA” HOLIDAY HAPPENING**  
**DECEMBER 9-12, 2024**

*Save the date!*



**MONDAY**  
**DECEMBER 9**

2:00 pm Scholarship Game (\$15)  
7:00 pm Open Pairs Game



**TUESDAY**  
**DECEMBER 10**

9:00 am Open Pairs Game  
12:30 pm New Players' Seminar  
2:00 pm B-A-M (Session 1)  
2:00 pm Side Game  
7:00 pm B-A-M (Session 2)  
7:00 pm Side Game



**WEDNESDAY**  
**DECEMBER 11**

11:00 am Awards Brunch  
2:00 pm Open Pairs Game (Session 1)  
2:00 pm Side Game  
7:00 pm Open Pairs Game (Session 2)  
7:00 pm Side Game

*Colors:  
Red & Silver*



**THURSDAY**  
**DECEMBER 12**

9:00 am Early Bird Pairs Game



**RESORTS CASINO HOTEL**  
1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
Room Rate: \$55+taxes/fees (double occ)  
1.609.340.6300 ♦ Group Code: VAAA24  
Reservation Deadline: December 1, 2024  
[LINK TO BOOK RESERVATION ONLINE](#)

**PARTNERSHIPS**





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## Bridge Club Schedule

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