



# THE KIBITZER

CALGARY DUPLICATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION • UNIT 390

JANUARY 2012

EDITOR: *Martin McDonald*

LAYOUT & DESIGN: *Myron Achtman*

## President's Message

by *Jim Murphy* • President, Calgary ACBL Unit 390



Here we are in January 2012. Wow! Where has the time gone? Since the last President's message 3 months ago a lot has happened in the Calgary Bridge World. We had Board meetings in October and December and we plan to have another one on January 19.

Following are several key dates to note on your bridge calendar:

- 1) We have a **Calgary Sectional** coming up on March 30, 31, and April 1 at the Marlborough Park Community Association. The flyer is posted on the ACBL Web site under Sectional Tournaments.
- 2) We have scheduled our **AGM** at the **Bridgejoy Bridge Club** on Thursday May 3. The starting time of this event will be announced later.
- 3) The **Calgary Regional** is August 6 - 12 at the Radisson Hotel on the Trans Canada Highway at 19<sup>th</sup> Street NE. Murray and Marilyn Haggins are the Co-Chairs for this Regional event. They and their committee have built a Web site for this event at [www.calgaryregional.acbl-unit390.org](http://www.calgaryregional.acbl-unit390.org). Please take a look at it.
- 4) We are planning to have an open pairs Unit game in Okotoks on October 13 to promote bridge in Okotoks and surrounding area. We have decided to call it **Bridge Folks in Okotoks**. You will hear more about this event as we get closer to the date.
- 5) The Unit 390 Board approved the **CBF Fund Raising Regional**, which will be in Calgary in January 2013. This will be held at the Marlborough Park Community Association at 6021 Madigan Drive NE. This will be a 1-week tournament. Frank Ayer and Delores Hedley will be the Co-Chairs for this event.
- 6) ACBL Unit 390 Calgary has been approved to host the **Canadian Bridge Championships**. This will be in Calgary on May 3-10/2014 at the Radisson Hotel. Frank Ayer and Delores Hedley will be the Co-Chairs for this Canadian Event that will last for 8 days. This is held in a different Zone every year. I am sure Frank will be calling you over the next couple of years to help put this on.

A special thanks to **Martin McDonald**, our Kibitzer Editor, and **Myron Achtman**, our Kibitzer Designer, for giving us a new format for our Unit 390 newsletter. Congratulations to **Dave Swadron** for taking on the Webmaster position.

On behalf of our entire Unit, may I express our heartfelt appreciation to **Merle Hickey** for his excellent work and unwavering dedication as our Unit Webmaster these past many years.

I wish you all a happy and successful New Year.

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*Chu Phan, Joanne Sharpe, André Leaute, and Linda Wallace at the Calgary Sectional in September*

The credit for the display of sharp dressing at recent bridge tournaments certainly doesn't belong to me, but if the name fits...

It was actually Linda Wallace who made the effort to get team uniforms together for the Edmonton Regional. She got support from Melissa, Emelie and me, and then took it upon herself to find two tops and a scarf for each of us—sufficient for three days participation in the tournament. We started off Friday low key, with matching pink scarves. We had so much fun with it that Saturday became a complete outfit (good thing Superstore was close by) with a striped top, black cardigan and black pants. Sunday was the grand finale when we wore a print top and blue jeans.

We all expected that dressing alike would promote a sense of togetherness for the four of us, but the unexpected bonus was the attention we received from the entire room! The bridge crowd is always a welcoming one, but our get-up generated a new topic of conversation and helped people remember us

from day to day, which created a buzz of energy.

After such success, it was no surprise to Chu and André that Linda and I brought up the suggestion of team uniforms for the Calgary Sectional. This time matching tops weren't as easy to find, given that we had a mixed team, but it only took a little brainstorming to result in the white shirt and pink tie combo that made us stand out on Sunday. It was André's first sectional (he registered for the ACBL that morning) which made it much more important for him to feel like part of our team. We weren't the only ones who kept the enthusiasm going. Melissa and Emelie and their teammates, Jim and Chris Murphy, were also decked out in Hawaiian shirts.

Although I haven't seen the evidence, I hear the fashion virus has spread. At the Lethbridge Sectional, Chu, Frank, Michael and Elaine represented the sartorially gifted members of the Calgary community as the **The Men In Black**. And if the ongoing comments and questions are any indication, we'll see more team pride in tournaments to come.

# "Sharpe" Dressers

by Joanne Sharpe



*Linda Wallace, Joanne Sharpe, Emelie Quennell and Melissa Martin at the Edmonton Regional*



*Ellen Kuiper, Chu Phan, Michael Farebrother and Frank Kelton at the Lethbridge Sectional*



# Win Dolsen's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Bridge Party

by Martin McDonald, Editor

It is always heartwarming to hear good news from the South Calgary Ladies Bridge Club. This year their *Annual Charity Soup and Square Day* was held on Friday October 21, 2011 at Haysboro Community Asso-

ciation. Donations were gratefully accepted and \$5,650 was received with all proceeds donated to **Inn From The Cold**. Eight members made soup and many others brought great sweets. This delicious lunch was served up at 11:30 and bridge followed with 108 ladies playing in the event. In the last eight years a total of \$25,012 has been donated to Inn From The Cold providing shelter and assistance to the homeless.

This year the club members hospitality included a ninety-fifth birthday party to honour **Win Dolsen**. Delightfully moist turkey, ham and beef



Diana Burn, Annabelle Gurevitch, Birthday Girl Win Dolsen and Cora Steemers

croissants were served on a bed of lettuce. Fresh vegetable platters, cheese trays and a special birthday cake prepared to order by Garrison Woods Safeway made the luncheon complete. There was no report filed on the results of the game, but any time you can play bridge with your friends, especially on your birthday, it's guaranteed to be enjoyable.



## 2012 Annual General Meeting

The Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association UNIT 390

When: Thursday, May 3

Where: Bridgejoy Bridge Club

Time: Meeting 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Pairs game 7:30 p.m.

- Free food provided at the meeting
- No card fees when you attend the meeting
- Unit championship points

• All noted times are tentative based on the level of discussion occurring at the meeting.

• An attendance estimate is needed to finalize the catering arrangements. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by April 12 to **Warren Richards** at **(403) 245-3480** or by email at **390events@acblunit390.org**.

## 2011 ALBERTA SECTIONALS MASTERPOINT RACE Final Standings - Top 20

1	Nicholas Gartaganis	163.29
2	Judith Gartaganis	156.85
3	Bob Crosby	128.72
4	Daniel Bertrand	102.23
5	Allan Simon	90.17
6	Steve Lawrence	89.23
7	Hash Mohamed	84.99
8	Lucille Barton	75.74
9	Chris Buchanan	72.08
10	Lee Barton	70.06
11	Abdul Fakhri	69.93
12	Frank Ayer	63.51
13	Maurice de la Salle	58.30
14	Kiz Fung	54.89
15	Perry Khakhar	52.90
16	Dick Yuen	50.08
17	Peter Jones	47.30
18	Janet Galbraith	46.49
19	Susan Culham	42.68
20	Gerry Marshall	37.93

# Play this Hand with Me

by Frank Ayer, 2013 CBF ex Gratia Regional Chairman



Playing in a Club Team Game with an expert partner against competent opponents my hand is ♠AK54, ♥KQ1093, ♦Q76, ♣7. In first seat non-vulnerable I open 1♥. The opponents pass and partner responds 2♥. With 5½ losers—using the Adjusted Losing Trick Count—my hand is worth a game try. Hash and I are playing Kokish game-tries so I rebid 3♣ showing a singleton Club. Partner alerts and explains the bid as a singleton or void, thinks for a moment and bids 4♥.

North	East	South	West
		1♥	pass
2♥	pass	3♣*	pass
4♥	all pass		

\*singleton/void in Clubs

~ opening lead: ♠6

The opening lead is the ♠6 and dummy is:

♠ J 10 3 2  
♥ 8 7 2  
♦ A 4 3 2  
♣ A 2

♠ A K 5 4  
♥ K Q 10 9 3  
♦ Q 7 6  
♣ 7

Not bad, game definitely has good chances, especially on this lead, but I would rather partner's ♣A was the ♦K. In that case game is cold if trumps can be played for one loser. Partner's 2♥ bid, immediately showing support, is the correct response; 1♠ would

tend to deny Heart support and the hand is not strong enough to later bid 3♥. I agree with Hash accepting my game-try: he was maximum for his raise, notwithstanding the 3 trumps, and would accept all game-tries. The Ace is the only useful honour in my short suit.

I play dummy's ♠J and it wins as East follows with the ♠7 and I play the ♠4. When I lead the ♥8 and East rises with the ♥A it looks like West has ♥J654. East exits with the ♣6 (denying an honour sequence) as West plays the ♣9. I win the ♣A in dummy. I am about to play a 2nd trump when it occurs to me to ruff dummy's last Club; if trumps really are 4-1 it may help to reduce my trump length to the same or less than West. I ruff the ♣2 with the ♥9 as the opponents follow with the ♣3 and ♣10. When I cash the ♥K West plays the ♥5 as East discards a Club.

Abandoning trumps I cash the ♠A but East discards another Club. So East is 1-1 in the majors. It appears that I have to lose one Spade, two Hearts, and at least one Diamond. Let's see if I can reconstruct the hand. East would likely have bid over 2♥ with 8 Clubs to the KJ or 6-5 in the minors or the Diamond King in addition to the Heart Ace and Club honors. West's opening lead from ♠Q986 is a bit strange. Unless West is being devious her distribution is 4-4-2-3. I can hope her hand is ♠Q986, ♥J654, ♦Kx, ♣Q109 since she didn't try for a Diamond ruff or lead a Club sequence; and that the layout is now:

♠ Q9	♠ —
♥ J6	♥ —
♦ Kx	♦ Jxxx
♣ Q	♣ KJx

♠ K5
♥ Q10
♦ Q76
♣ —

I cannot see any other legitimate chance so I cross to the ♦A as West plays the ♦10. I lead a Diamond toward my hand. East plays the ♦8 and, following my plan, play the ♦7. My luck is in as West wins the singleton ♦K and is end-played. She has to give me my 10th trick whether she returns a Spade, Heart, or Club. She leads the ♥J so I draw trumps, cash ♦Q and ♠K and give up a Spade. The whole hand:

♠ J1032	♠ 7
♥ 872	♥ A
♦ A432	♦ J985
♣ A2	♣ KJ86543

♠ Q986	♠ AK54
♥ J654	♥ KQ1093
♦ K10	♦ Q76
♣ Q109	♣ 7

It wasn't strictly necessary to ruff dummy's last Club when I did; I could have ruffed it after crossing to the ♦A. But then I would have to lead a low Diamond from my hand perhaps

going down 2 or 3 if East did have the ♦K. It is often good technique to reduce your trump length when safe to do so, even if there is no apparent need; it prepares the way for trump coups or end-plays or may start a successful elopement (taking ruffs with your small trumps).

When I attempted to reconstruct the hand after cashing the Spade Ace I had to place West with the doubleton King of Diamonds since this was the only holding, consistent with East's pass, that would allow me to make 4 Hearts. This assumption was reasonable based on the bidding and the opening lead. (If East had 8 Clubs she might have bid over 2 Hearts. If East was 6-5 in the minors she might have bid 2NT over 2 Hearts. If East had Ace-King-King with 11 cards in the minors she would probably bid something. If West had a singleton

or small doubleton in Diamonds she might have led a Diamond. This is a lot of if's but all of them defensible.) If that assumption had been unreasonable I would have had to either play on that assumption and likely fail; or try something else, such as cashing the Spade King and throwing West in with the 4<sup>th</sup> Spade hoping she would mis-defend. Playing on an assumption is a powerful tool for Declarer (and Defenders); just make sure your assumption has some justification and it allows you to make (or defeat) the contract. One other note—make the least optimistic assumption you can.

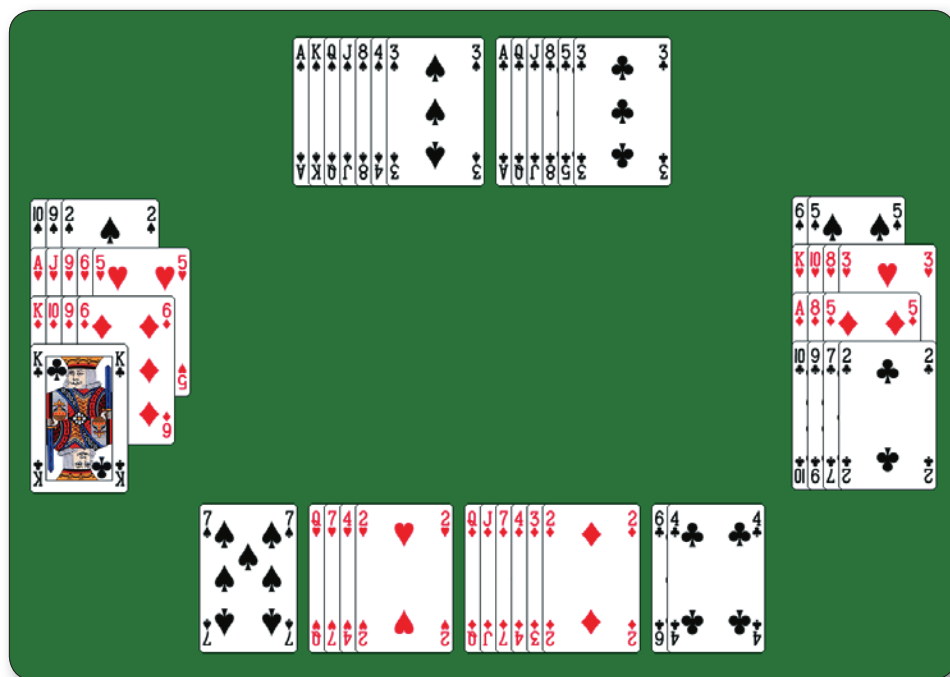
West's opening lead of a Spade was the only lead, other than the Jack of Hearts that allows me to make the hand. Perhaps a Club into my known singleton, especially with 4 trumps (playing to tap me out), would have been a better choice. I think the Spade

lead was more unlucky than wrong; a "good partner" would have had some Spade help. Although 4 Spades is cold on any lead it requires playing East for a singleton Spade and would likely go down.

In the bidding narrative I mentioned the Adjusted Losing Trick Count. Since LTC doesn't differentiate between Queens and Aces (Qxxx, Qxx, Qxx, Qxx has the same LTC=8 as Axxx, Axx, Axx, Axx) the Adjusted LTC adds ½ loser for every Queen more than Ace the hand has and subtracts ½ loser for every Ace more than Queen. While LTC can be a useful bidding tool once a fit is found the Adjusted is even better. My hand of ♠AK54, ♥KQ1093, ♦Q76, ♣7 has a LTC=5 but has 2 Queens and only 1 Ace so the Adjusted LTC is 5½. Dummy's ♠J1032, ♥872, ♦A432, ♣A2 has a LTC=9 and an Adjusted LTC=8.

## Don't Get "Cute"

by Martin McDonald, Editor



This 7-6 black suited monster comprised Board 7 on Tuesday evening January 10, 2012 at the Martinique Bridge Club with both sides vulnerable. Dealer South.

## Making 6 Spades

After two passes North contemplated six or seven spades with a self-sufficient boss suit and needing the ♣K from partner for the grand. With one loser in clubs an opening bid of 2♣ might be right, 4♦ NAMYATS better, 6♠ unequivocal or 7♠ porcine.

Our hero burst out of the chute with the unilateral call of 6♠ announcing, "I bid what I think I can make partner." He ruffed the ♥A, drew trump and went into the tank with nary an entry to dummy to lead one of its two clubs for a look at the finesse. He finally came up with the ♣Q losing to the singleton ♣K and lost another Club to East's 10xxx for down one and a big fat zero. The correct play is ♣A and then the ♣Q catering to a doubleton or singleton ♣K or ♣10 or any 3-2 split.



# New Sheriff in Town

## The Kibitzer Interviews Brad Boyle Our New Unit 390 Recorder



**Kibitzer:** *Can you tell us how you got started playing bridge?*

**Brad:** I come from a card playing family. I started playing cribbage with my grandfather when I was 3 and played euchre when I was 5. My parents played social bridge and sometimes needed a fourth, so I began playing bridge when I was 8. I loved the game and I would practice by dealing out the cards and bidding, playing and defending all four hands. Over the years I must have dealt out thousands of hands. This was actually very good training as it gave me a good sense of the probabilities of certain distributions and counting and remembering how many cards of each suit had been played.

In my last year of high school, I discovered duplicate bridge at the Bridge Studio in London, Ontario. Like many at that age, I played a wild and aggressive style. A couple of local experts though saw in me some natural talent for the game, particularly in play and defense, offset by a bidding style that might generously be described as bold. They were very kind and offered to mentor and play with me at the club and local tournaments to help develop my game.

**Kibitzer:** *I understand that you played junior bridge for a few years. How did that come about?*

**Brad:** When I started playing competitive bridge and attending the University of Western Ontario in London in the early 1980s the ACBL was starting to realize that the average age of an ACBL member was rising quickly and there was a lack of new young bridge players coming into the game, particularly from colleges and universities. In order to try to attract younger players, the ACBL began marketing and promoting events for juniors and university students. In Ontario there were only a few of us who played competitive tournament bridge and were young enough to qualify for the junior events, so I started a partnership with a player from Toronto who I thought would be a reasonably good partner to play with me in these new junior events. We managed to form a pretty good partnership for a few years, including winning the North American university pair championships and international university competitions in Japan in 1984 and 1985. The tournaments in Japan

were great experiences as the tournament sponsors covered all of our costs. Our events were run along with open international events. We were able to watch and discuss hands with many international stars whom we read about in the *Bridge World* magazine. Following our junior careers we continued to enjoy some success at regionals and nationals as partners and teammates. My junior partner has since gone on to have a pretty good resume as a full time professional player—you may have heard of Fred Gitelman.

**Kibitzer:** *Did you ever consider playing bridge professionally as Fred has done?*

**Brad:** Briefly. I continued to have reasonable success in bridge events after university, winning various ACBL regional events and qualifying for national finals and world championship events. However, to get to the next level in bridge where I could regularly expect to compete to be on the podium or win national and world championship events would require a full time commitment. I had (finally!) finished university in London with my law degree and MBA and was just starting my business career in Toronto. I was also planning to start a family and did not think that it was prudent for me to try to establish a professional bridge career at the same time.

Fred's bridge talent is extraordinary and he was a rising star visible to all early on. Professional bridge is a very tough road to travel and to be successful requires a lot of natural talent, hard work and focused commitment. It is great to see Fred's talent and efforts rewarded in his results. I still get together with Fred and his wife Sheri occasionally when I run into them at national tournaments.

**Kibitzer:** *When did you begin playing bridge in Calgary?*

**Brad:** I was transferred from Toronto to Calgary in late 1995 and my son was born the same year. I did manage to start my bridge career in Calgary with a bang by winning the Sunday Swiss team event at a sectional tournament in early 1996. However, due to my career and family commitments I effectively retired from bridge for about 15 years. In 2000 I was diagnosed with young onset Parkinson's dis-

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ease (very similar in age and condition to Michael J. Fox) which eventually caused me to stop working in 2007. The good news part of this story is that it gave me more time for my family (we took our kids out of school for four months and traveled around the world in 2009 visiting 6 continents and about 40 countries) and freed up time to consider a return to competitive bridge. I stopped by the Calgary Regional in 2009 and ran into Allan Simon who had been my partner at the sectional in 1996. Allan was willing to play with me again despite the rust that had accumulated on my bridge game over the years. In return, I agreed to learn and play the bidding system Allan had developed with Dan Bertrand. Over the last two years I have thoroughly enjoyed playing in club, sectional, regional and national events with Allan and Dan.

**Kibitzer:** *Thanks for the interview. Do you have any final comments?*

**Brad:** I am grateful for the opportunities that bridge has provided to me, the intellectual challenge it offers, the analytical skills and confidence it has allowed me to develop, and the great friends I have made along the way. I continue to enjoy bridge as a "part-time" sport and while my best or most consistent days at the bridge table may be behind me due to age and the progressive effects of my Parkinson's disease, the adrenaline rush and excitement I get from a well played/defended/bid hand still remains. It is a great game for all ages and I am gradually trying to get my son and daughter interested in the game. I would encourage all of you to try to bring in new players and welcome them to the game.

## Interested in Joining the Board?

We will need to fill at least one Director's position at our 2012 AGM. If you are interested in giving back to the bridge community, I would like to hear from you.

The time obligations are quite minimal (normally 6 meetings per year). You will have the chance to learn what the inner workings entail with respect to Sectional, Regional and larger tournaments that will be coming to Calgary in the next few years.

We know that many of you have important professional skills that are necessary to run an organization such as ours. In-house legal, accounting and business acumen can help the Board avoid unnecessary errors and conflicts and ensure sound decisions are made.

The Board is considering the implementation of a mentoring process that will allow new Directors to buddy with present Executive Officers to learn the ropes and ease the transition into these positions.

The coming years will see the continuing growth of the Calgary bridge community and provide opportunities for change and enhancement. Your ideas and commitment will lead the way.

If you are interested in future Board appointments and openings please call me at **(403) 242-4226**.

Respectfully, Don Basarsky, Vice-President  
Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association, ACBL Unit 390

## Upcoming Tournament Dates 2012



- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • Calgary Sectional   | March 30 - April 1 |
| • Lethbridge Regional | April 9 - 16       |
| • Kootenay Sectional  | April 20 - 22      |
| • Vancouver Regional  | April 23 - 29      |
| • Penticton Regional  | June 11 - 13       |
| • Calgary Regional    | August 6 - 12      |
| • Calgary Sectional   | September 7 - 9    |

# A Jolly Good Time Was Had By All

by Martin McDonald, Editor



**O**n Monday December 19 the Bowness Sportsplex auditorium was filled with sounds of glee and delightful laughter as nearly 300 members of ACBL Unit 390 Calgary shared a wonderful Christmas dinner and bridge party. This was a cooperative venture between Brian and Joy Saville, the owners and managers of Calgary's two finest duplicate bridge clubs—**Bidwell** and **Bridgejoy**—and a score or more of their friends volunteering to help them host their patrons. Clearly it is the best Christmas event of the many we share during the Yuletide season.

There were handmade goodie bags for every player together with convention card holders and bridge appointment books with each guest's name and ACBL number cleverly stenciled in place. The tables were groaning under the weight of the enormous repast laid on for the bright-eyed assembly who comprised 70 tables of duplicate bridge aficionados.

The festive crowd was decked out in their finest as you can see from the myriad of photos taken by Gary Saville and now posted on our unit Web site at [www.acblunit390.org/index.php?p=1\\_101](http://www.acblunit390.org/index.php?p=1_101). Santa Claus could not find parking for his sleigh and reindeer, on the roof, or anywhere within six square blocks.



[L - R] Vivian Winestock, Jim Murphy, Pat Murphy and Chris Murphy among the 300 at the Christmas party

Next year the appropriate parking ordinance needs to be passed by the good burghers of Bowness so jolly old Saint Nick can come down the chimney with bells on all aglow with a merry Ho! Ho! Ho! to the resounding cheers from the assembly. This year he was ably represented by Gord McLure and Brian Turner respectively who gave our redoubtable leaders our card and generous pecuniary gift contributed by the usual suspects. In past years the Savilles have rewarded

our largesse and purchased a dealing machine and the special boards and immaculate cards it requires to duplicate as many sets of boards as necessary.



Gord McLure [R] presents a Christmas card to our congenial hosts, Brian and Joy Saville

The chronic challenge seems to be that they are so well-loved by our bridge community and this event so popular that it threatens to outgrow even this venue with its almost 10,000 square foot auditorium and parking for 150 cars. The smiles were legion and invigorating as you can see from the photos.

We wish to award symbolic bouquets to Joy and Brian and to lead a hearty round of applause for our volunteer team whose camaraderie was genuine and esprit de corps heart warming. It's amazing what excellence our community demonstrates when we cooperate and organize such functions. Congratulations to all and to all a good night. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# Social Networks

by Martin McDonald, Editor



The growth of social networks is one of the most powerful developments in the third millennium Common Era. Even ACBL Unit 390 with its aging demographics has a terrific Web site courtesy of Merle Hickey and David Swadron. It is often visited by our many octogenarians and players of all ages.

The field of Network Theory was first occupied in 1929 by Hungarian author Frigyes Karinthy who published a volume of short stories titled *Everything is Different*. One of these pieces was entitled *Chains*. Due to technological advances in communications and travel, friendship networks could grow larger and span greater distances. Karinthy believed the modern world was “shrinking” due to this ever increasing connectedness of human beings. As a result of this hypothesis Karinthy’s characters believed that any two people on earth could be connected through a chain of at most five other acquaintances. Six degrees of separation is the name for the existential premise that everyone in the world is on the average no more than six steps away—by way of introduction—from any other person on earth. It was popularized by a 1990 Broadway play, *Six Degrees of Separation*, written by John Guare. In a climactic moment of reflection toward the end of the play, Ouisa Kittredge delivers the play’s most famous monologue that has become a mantra for network theory:

“I read somewhere that everybody on this planet is separated by only six other people. Six degrees of separation. How every person is a new door opening into other worlds. Six degrees of separation between me and everybody else on this planet. But to find the right six people.”

In the 1950s, Ithiel de Sola Pool (MIT) and Manfred Kochen set out to prove the theory mathematically. They were able to phrase the question as follows: Given a set  $N$  of people, what is the probability that each member of  $N$  is connected to another member via  $k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_n$  links? After twenty years they were still unable to solve the problem to their own satisfaction. However, in 1961 Michael Gurevich conducted seminal work in his MIT PhD dissertation under Ithiel de Sola Pool in his empirical study of the structure of social networks. Mathematician Manfred who had been involved in Statist urban design extrapolated these empirical results in a mathematical manuscript *Contacts and Influences*. He concluded that in a USA-sized population without social structure:

“It is practically certain that any two individuals can contact one another by means of at least two intermediaries. In a [socially] structured situation it is less likely but still seems probable. And perhaps for the whole world’s population, probably one more bridging individual should be needed.”

They subsequently constructed Monte Carlo simulations based on Gurevich’s data that recognized both weak and strong acquaintance links are needed to model social structure.

In 1967 American sociologist Stanley Milgram devised a new way to test the theory. He called it “the small world problem.” He randomly selected people in the mid-West to send packages to a stranger located in Massachusetts. The senders knew the recipient’s name, occupation and general location. They were instructed to send the package to a person they knew on a first-name basis who, out of all their friends, they thought was most likely to know the target personally. *That recipient would do the same and so on until the package was personally delivered to its target.* It only took on average between five and seven intermediaries to cause each package to be delivered. Milgram’s findings were published in *Psychology Today* and inspired the phrase “six degrees of separation.” Milgram’s findings were later discounted after it was discovered that he had based his conclusion on a very small number of packages. Six degrees of separation became an accepted norm in pop culture after Brett C. Tjaden published a computer game on the University of Virginia’s Web site based on the small world problem using the Internet Movie Database (IMDB) to document connections between different actors.

Milgram continued Gurevich’s experiments in acquaintance networks at Harvard. The original manuscript, *Contacts and Influences*, was conceived when all concerned were at the University of Paris in the 1950s during a time when Milgram visited and collaborated in their research. It circulated among academics for more than 20 years before publication in 1978. It formally articulated the mechanics of social networks and explored the mathematical consequences including the degree of connectedness. It left many significant questions unresolved and the over-arching one was the number of degrees of separation in actual social networks. In 2001 Duncan Watts, Professor at Columbia University, continued his own earlier research into the phenomenon and recreated Milgram’s experiment on the Internet. Watts

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used an email package that needed to be delivered. After reviewing the data collected by 48,000 senders and 19 targets in 157 countries, Watts concluded that the average number of intermediaries was indeed six.

The Bakhshandeh collaboration has introduced new search techniques to develop an optimal algorithm to calculate degrees of separation in the Twitter social network. Their optimal algorithm finds an average degree of separation of 3.43 between two random Twitter users requiring an average of only 67 requests for information over the Internet to Twitter. A near optimal solution of length 3.88 can be found by making an average of 13.3 requests. A Facebook platform application—*Six Degrees*—was developed by Karl Bunyan to calculate the degrees of separation between different user groups. It had more than 5.8 million users with an average separation for all users of the application of 5.73. Yahoo! Research Small World Experiment has been conducting an experiment on Facebook. Their data team released two papers in November 2011 documenting that amongst all Facebook users at the time of research (721 million users with 69 billion friendship links) there is an average distance of 4.74. If one considers that the population of the planet is an order of magnitude larger, six degrees of separation seems apropos.

### **Social Networks and Your ACBL Unit 390 Calgary Community**

Kindness to our bridge community means more than just attending the AGM and being a mentor. It is not mere involvement in the affairs of the association. It means being actively committed in serving the local bridge community as an officer, a director, a volunteer or other role model and continuing the recent path of re-engaging our members with this duplicate bridge association and its values. It's like bacon and eggs: the chicken is involved but the pig is committed. We need this philosophy but not necessarily the figure or the temperament. There should be no more than one degree of

separation between you and the officers and directors and committee members of Unit 390 meaning "If you aren't one, you know one."

There are many opportunities to self-actualize as a leader whether as a Board Director, committee member or volunteer for our Sectionals or our three upcoming Regionals. One of the reasons that our swelling new member registration does not guarantee us the lead in membership growth in the ACBL is that we do not have a **Membership Retention Director**. This is a key position for any organization but especially our unit. Without a vibrant dedicated membership retention policy we will continue to lose members after one year or two if they have not found their milieu; or even later after they hit a significant milestone if they feel further progress is irrelevant or unattainable. If a capable human resources manager came forward to fill this vacuum and lead a dedicated committee we could ensure that every non-renewing member in ACBL Unit 390 would have the opportunity to confide to a professional their successes or frustrated aspirations or to express how ACBL Unit 390 may have failed to meet their needs or understand their preferences. Membership retention must be a priority in any organization with an aging demographic like the ACBL. We have the knowledge and the technology to do the job. We need YOU!

Volunteering creates warmth and unity. Volunteering in our community helps us make connections with our fellow players and reduces the difficulty of progress at the higher levels in our Grand Game to manageable proportions. Volunteers have fun and reduce the degrees of separation in our midst so we do feel we are a closely bonded community with unity of purpose and unity in action. Please send our Vice President Don Basarsky an email—[vicepres390@acblunit390.org](mailto:vicepres390@acblunit390.org)—or call him (403) 242-4226 to volunteer. We will help you find your niche in our ascendancy.

## **2012 Calgary Regional Update**

Please reserve the dates August 6 - 12 to attend the **2012 Alberta Regional** at the Radisson Hotel. Check our Web site [www.calgaryregional.acblunit390.org](http://www.calgaryregional.acblunit390.org) or follow the links from the ACBL Tournament Calendar. For fund raising we have a campaign for sponsorship, a Unit Game scheduled for April 28, 2012 and a garage sale in the spring.

**Help Wanted:** We are looking for a volunteer to edit and publish the Bulletin at the Regional. Anyone interested in running the Calcutta, please email Murray Haggins, [m.mhaggins@shaw.ca](mailto:m.mhaggins@shaw.ca) or phone (403) 547-4023.



*Murray and Marilyn Haggins*



# Bid and Play

by Ken Scott, Alberta Director • D-18 Board

Carol Lee Bellam's wonderful idea of a supervised bid and play game was discussed (with Ed Faichuk and Marilyn/Murray Haggins) at the 2010 spring NABC in Reno. It was initiated a couple of weeks later, hosted by the **Martinique Bridge Studio** on Wednesday evenings. The game filled a missing link of how to transition graduates of beginner lessons into duplicate. Carol Lee (with the help of Ed, Marilyn, and Murray and many volunteers) has grown the evening session and it has been a huge success.

The session consists of two parallel games: the "Bid and Play" game, where volunteers are available to help newcomers; and a "regular" newcomers (0 to 50 MPs) game. The latter opportunity extends and enriches the first one. In recent weeks, 15 tables have been filled. Before each session, Carol

Lee and her volunteers have been providing a lesson—a 30 minute tip of the day with handout. In the Bid and Play game, novices play as many boards as they want, typically 15 to 18. At least one board in every set is designed to reinforce the concept taught in the lesson. "Mulligans," "un-dos," and "do overs" are part of the game, and there's no need to have a partner as volunteers are on stand-by. As the newcomers progress, they are encouraged to move over to the "bigger" game across the room. An innovative aspect of the regular newcomers game is the availability of mentors financed by some of the monies raised in the two Saturday games organized by **Bridge Nuts** and **Bridge-R-Us**.

In early December, Carol Lee turned the game over to Marilyn and Murray. As a bridge community we owe a big "thank you" to Carol Lee for her idea, energy, and tenacity. An excellent way to thank



*Carol Lee Bellam thanking Wednesday evening newcomers with Marilyn Haggins (background).*

Carol Lee is by referring friends, neighbors, relatives or acquaintances who have expressed an interest in bridge to this program. Information is available from the Haggins at [m.mhaggins@shaw.ca](mailto:m.mhaggins@shaw.ca).



*Murray and Marilyn Haggins (standing) giving tips to students in the "regular" newcomers game.*



# Club Corner



**At all locations, please do not wear perfume or cologne as some players are allergic to the ingredients. "No scents makes good sense!"**

## Aurora Bridge Club

North Haven Community Association  
5003 North Haven Drive NW  
Owner/Manager: Lorne and Debbie Hanson  
(403) 239-2806 or (403) 860-7079 (cell)

### Game Schedule

Monday	12:15 p.m.	Open Pairs Stratified
Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Open Pairs Stratified

## Bidwell Duplicate Bridge Club

Woodcliff United Church  
5010 Spruce Drive SW  
Owner/Director: Brian and Joy Saville  
(403) 239-2768 or (403) 464-4455 (cell)  
email: bridgejoy@gmail.com

### Game Schedule

Monday	12:00 noon	Open Pairs Stratified
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## Bow River Bridge Club

Kerby Centre  
1133 - 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Manager: Delores Hedley  
(403) 481-3488

### Game Schedule

Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Flighted Swiss Teams
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- For partners and team arrangements, call Elaine Stewart at (403) 246-8691
- Players at all levels are welcome.

## Bridge Haven Bridge Club

Lakeview United Church of Canada  
3023 - 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW  
Owner/Director: Barry Robey (403) 828-0220

### Game Schedule

Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Open Pairs
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- Pleasant, welcoming atmosphere for all levels of play in a beautiful setting with excellent parking.
- Please call Barry if you need a partner.

## Bridgejoy Bridge Club

North Haven Community Association  
5003 North Haven Drive NW  
Owner/Director: Brian and Joy Saville  
(403) 239-2768 or (403) 464-4455 (cell)  
email: bridgejoy@gmail.com

### Game Schedule

Thursday	7:15 p.m.	Open Pairs Stratified
Friday	12:00 noon	0-1250 Stratified

- Zero tolerance will be strictly enforced
- Bridgejoy has a bidding box policy

## Chinook Ladies Bridge Club

Knights of Columbus Hall  
2419 - 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Manager: Karen Chapple  
(403) 251-3899

### Game Schedule

Tuesday	12:00 noon	Stratified Invitational Pairs
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- Please call Karen if you need a partner.

# Club Corner

Alert

ALERT

**At all locations, please do not wear perfume or cologne as some players are allergic to the ingredients. "No scents makes good sense!"**

## Martinique Bridge Club

Knights of Columbus Hall

2419 - 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW

Bridge Club (403) 243-4353

Owner/Manager: Maureen Bailey and Brenda Bertrand

email: martinique@shaw.ca

### Game Schedule

Monday	7:00 p.m.	Invitational Swiss Teams
Tuesday	12:00 noon	Chinook Ladies Pairs
	7:30 p.m.	Open Pairs
Wednesday	12:00 noon	Non-Life Master Pairs (0 - 750)
	7:30 p.m.	Bid and Play/Newcomer Pairs
Thursday	12:15 p.m.	Open Pairs
	7:00 p.m.	Newcomer Pairs (0 - 300)
Friday	7:30 p.m.	Open Pairs
Saturday	7:30 p.m.	Open Pairs
Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Open Pairs

- Calgary's only full-service bridge club. Open 7 days a week.

## Fish Creek Duplicate Bridge Club

Recreation Centre at Hays Farm

2 blocks East of Elbow Drive on 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW

Manager/Director: Jim Berglund (403) 667-2331

### Game Schedule

Tuesday 12:15 p.m. Open Pairs Stratified

- Games will be preceded by a lesson or Q&A session at 11:45 a.m. Lessons will be based on bidding, counting, play and defence – with limited focus on conventions.
- There will be no game on the weeks that the North Calgary Ladies allow men in their games.
- For partners call Elaine Stewart at (403) 246-8691, or Jim Berglund at (403) 667-2331.

## North Calgary Ladies Bridge Club

Varsity Community Hall

4303 Varsity Drive NW

President: Carol Lee Bellam (403) 270-7438

Manager: Paula Sisko (403) 286-7103

### Game Schedule

Tuesday 12:15 p.m. Invitational Pairs

- **NOTE:** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays – Open Pairs. Gentlemen welcome.

## Elbow River Bridge Club

Kerby Centre

1133 - 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW

Manager: Chu Phan

(403) 249-7977

### Game Schedule

Monday 7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs

- Complimentary cookies and coffee!
- Wheelchair accessible
- Ample free parking

## South Calgary Ladies Bridge Club

Haysboro Community Hall

1204 - 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW

Manager: Cora Steemers and Diana Burn

Director: Maureen Bailey (403) 252-1852

### Game Schedule

Friday 12:15 p.m. Stratified Invitational Pairs

- Calgary's premiere ladies game.

# Bill Gates Charity Bridge Cruise

by Emelie Quennell, Unit 390 Secretary

**O**n Monday, November 28, 2011 at the fall NABC held in Seattle, Washington six lucky novice to intermediate Calgary bridge players attended a special day aboard the **Royal Argosy**, a local Seattle cruise ship. The ACBL event was made possible with the help of a donation from Bill Gates, a bridge enthusiast and local computer geek.

The completely sold out cruise event left the dock in the morning with 256 participants (64 tables), all in the 0-300 MP category. A breakfast buffet awaited us followed by the morning session of bridge. Then we were treated to a luncheon during which there was a commentary on some of the more interesting hands. This was followed by a second session of bridge as we cruised the Puget Sound.

The day was lovely, the sky clear and the sun shining. It was such a treat to play bridge in the daylight beside a window, our cards on white linen tablecloths and the sun streaming in. The crystal clear view of Mount Rainier was divine.



Bridge enthusiasts (L-R) Dana Pyke/Dedeluk, Melissa Martin, Sandy Robinson, Emelie Quennell, Paula Hopwood and Kim Cohos with the Royal Argosy docked in Seattle, Washington.



*Better the birthday hat...  
than the birthday suit!*

## SAVING PRIVATE HUMOUR

Emelie had a couple of martinis and started to hiccup and she just couldn't stop hiccupping. She continued to hiccup and couldn't stop hiccupping. She asked me to give her \$100 so that she could stop hiccupping. I was reluctant to give her \$100. I thought it was a lot of dollars. Besides, I didn't want any male to see me give her \$100. What rumors would ensue if someone saw me give her \$100? Emelie, being a persistent bridge player, continued to ask [suggest] that I give her \$100.

We went to her room and the hiccupping ceased. That's all there was to it.

*The truth by Walter Brock*



# Sleepless In Seattle

by David Johnson

In late November in Seattle at the NABC, **Fi Nadir** and I entered the 3-day **Mini Blue Ribbon Pairs**, open to players with BR qualifications and less than 5000 master points. At two sessions a day, we had to finish in the top 112 of 236 pairs the first day (we finished 26<sup>th</sup>), in the top 52 of 112 after day 2, with carryover, (we finished 3<sup>rd</sup>) in order to play day 3 with the carryover greatly reduced (the first place pair had a carryover of 42.35, and a top on each of the 52 boards we played on day 3 was 25). We finished 8<sup>th</sup>, and apart from a 62% game on day 2, I believe the other 5 rounds were between 53 and 58%. **Allan Simon** and **Dan Bertrand** illustrated the importance of good scores on day 3, when presumably the field is stronger; by moving from 44<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the second best score of the day out of 52 pairs.

I had played day 3 of this event the previous year with an infrequent partner but we finished low in the finals, and I came away with the impression that the part-score bidding is more competitive at this event than say, the A/X Pairs on the Saturday of our Sectionals, or perhaps a local Regional. In fact Fi and I got near tops, about 2 each session (and we missed about 1 additional one each session), by setting the opponents, doubled or not, for 200 points or more when all we had was a part score our way.

We had the Director called on us twice, in each case because of a bidding mixup where my description of partner's bid didn't agree with his intended meaning. In one case the bidding continued and the result was not amended. In the other the opponents were allowed, unfairly I believe, to change their opening lead and turn our top into a bottom. Each time I noticed the frustration/annoyance of the directors at our failure to agree our conventions or system. I've noticed this in articles as well, for example, on [bridgewinners.com](http://bridgewinners.com).

As to hands, one success was when I held: ♠J7 ♥A9 ♦AJ6 ♣AKQ1042 and my partner opened a weak 2♦. I wanted to bid 2NT to see if he had a feature in Hearts or Spades, but RHO jumped in Spades and at some point LHO supported Spades, I believe in a pass out seat when we were at 5♦. Anyway I trusted partner to have 0 or 1 Spades in view of the bidding, and bid 6♦, making for a top, when partner found the stiff ♦Q and had a singleton Spade.

One failure, during the last 4 boards, and I believe we were ~5<sup>th</sup> with 2 rounds to go, was when I held: ♠AKQ106 ♥K6 ♦QJ9 ♣Q105. RHO opened 2♥, both vulnerable, and I doubled and partner bid 3♦, showing some values; else he would have bid 2NT (Lebensohl) first. They bid Hearts again and I bid 4♦. Partner had ♠J5 ♥84 ♦A107542 ♣AJ7, and made 7 when the ♥A and minor suit Kings were all on side, as one or two figured to be based on the bidding.



*Fi Nadir and David Johnson catch their breath at the Mini Blue Ribbon Pairs*

We had played each of the 3 mornings in a KO so fatigue may have been a factor. I know I was "pushing cards" on one or two late hands, so perhaps we should have "thrown" the KO early ☹. Anyway, the gratifying overall success, at least for players of our level, and the 3 decisions I recall of mine that I regret, reminded me that I love this game, and I want to improve and continue to play and compete. The friends that were there, mostly from Calgary, made it a very enjoyable social experience as well. I hope one day that a NABC comes to Calgary. I know our community would put on a great event, and many would enjoy the experience of a National for the first time.

# Winless In Seattle

by Allan Simon



**D**an Bertrand and I were part of a large contingent of Calgarians at the Seattle Fall NABC. We had a good time: the entertainment and the complimentary after-hours snacks were first class, the tournament was well run, in a great location in downtown Seattle, with the famous Pike Place Market and many terrific restaurants nearby.

Our first event was the **Life Masters Pairs**. We had no illusions about contending, but we both enjoy playing against the best, and we sometimes felt we should have brought an autograph book instead of a convention card. We reached our goals, which were to earn some Platinum points and qualify for the second day. But in the Final we placed below average. Not to make excuses—we were not going to do very well in any case—but I did not feel well that day.

After two days of playing regionally-rated team games with pick-up pairs we entered the 3-day **Mini Blue Ribbon Pairs** for players below 5000 master points. Since we both have more than 4000 points we had reasonably high expectations. Out of 236 pairs, we stood 10<sup>th</sup> after the first two sessions. Two other pairs from Alberta did well: **Glenn Cossey** (Innisfail) and **Don McCarthy** (formerly Red Deer, now Kelowna) stood 20<sup>th</sup> and **Fi Nadir – Dave Johnson** of Calgary were 26<sup>th</sup>. So all three pairs comfortably moved on to day two.

On the second day Dan and I struggled mightily, we thought we might have dropped out of the top 52 who would move on to the final day. In the end we were 44<sup>th</sup>, less than a board away from ignominy! Dave and Fi had a terrific day and moved all the way to 3<sup>rd</sup> place! Don and Glenn qualified in 31<sup>st</sup>.

The first session of day 3 went well for us: We had a 62% game to move all the way to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. You have to get some gifts to score well. One opponent forgot to ruff our ♥A for the setting trick, and let through a shaky slam. Even stranger was a player who, in spite of holding a maximum

for his previous bidding, did not accept his partner's game invitation, explaining that his partner had been misplaying his cards all day. This pair placed second and would have been first but for this decision.

I actually thought our final session went very well, but we did not receive any gifts. So we stayed 3<sup>rd</sup>, which pleased us although one can always think of a few boards "that got away." Dave and Fi did extremely well and placed 8<sup>th</sup>, and Don and Glenn were 23<sup>rd</sup>, still in the top 10% of all entrants.

Our last event was the **North American Swiss**, where we were joined by **Gerry Marshall – Hendrik Sharples** and a pair from Seattle. We survived the cuts and got to play behind screens on the last day. There the wheels came off and we placed near the bottom, but still earned more than 20 Platinum points for our efforts.

Martin told me "no hands please" but I can't resist telling you about a hand Dan played in the North American Swiss. Look at it from the perspective of East who held ♠AQ642 ♥A763 ♦Q8 ♣A5.

He opened 1♠ and Dan overcalled 2♣. It went pass, 3♣(by me). East doubled and Dan jumped to 5♣, which was followed by three passes. West led the ♠7 and I tabled ♠J10983 ♥K95 ♦43 ♣Q97.

East won the ♠A, dropping Dan's ♠K. Dummy's spade spots looked threatening: East could see that Dan might enter dummy twice in trumps to establish and cash some Spade tricks. So he decided to play for the sure down one by cashing the ♥A. Surprise! Dan ruffed and led a Club to the Queen. East took his Ace and, now desperate, shifted to a Diamond. Dan won the ♦A, drew the last trump, played diamonds off the top, discarded the missing ♠5 on dummy's ♥K and claimed. His hand: ♠K5 ♥— ♦AKJ105 ♣KJ10832!

The ♠K was a brilliant false card, played without a second's hesitation. What a partner!

# 2011 Unit 390 Achievers

## Membership Report

*from Brian Willett, Unit 390 Membership Director*

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### JUNIOR MASTER

(5 - 19 MPs)

Ruth Cain  
Betty Chapman  
Miriam Daniel  
Richard Degroat  
Sharon Donaldson  
Debbie Hunt  
Bill Judd  
Willard Kirkpatrick  
Norman Miller  
Lisa O'Hara  
Karen Osborne  
Gloria Regush  
Duncan Stanners  
Mary Tourigny

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### CLUB MASTER

(20 - 49 MPs incl. 5 Black)

Heather Bourne  
Peggy Clark  
Lily Lister  
Maxine Monaghan  
Juliette Paul  
Bev Quail  
Hector Vanvierssentrip

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### REGIONAL MASTER

(100 - 199 MPs incl. 15 Black, 15 Silver, and 5 Red or Gold/Platinum)

Nancy Engbloom  
Gail Gorman  
Caenie Pyrcz  
Sandy Jean Robinson

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### NABC MASTER

(200 - 299 MPs incl. 20 Black, 25 Silver, 15 Red or Gold/Platinum and 5 Gold/Platinum)

Ineke Boudewijn  
Shirley King  
Judy McKeague  
Emelie Quennell  
Vivian Winestock

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### LIFE MASTER

(300 MPs incl. 50 Black, 50 Silver, 50 Red or Gold/Platinum of which at least 25 must be Gold or Platinum)

Sharon Dalton  
Don Rae  
Joan Shannon  
Brian Willett

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### SILVER LIFE MASTER

(Life Master over 1000 MPs)

Murray Haggins  
John Hinde  
Pauline Huculak  
Garry Ramsden-Wood

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### TRANSFERS INTO OUR UNIT

(We're pleased you've joined us.)

Brian Alexander  
Peter Bradbury  
Donna Marie & Peter Hupka  
Jadwiga Polujan

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### LEAVING OUR UNIT

(Sorry to see you go.)

Marilyn Blair  
Kathleen Leard

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### NEW MEMBERS

(The ACBL welcomes you!)

Connor Barker  
Ralph Coombs  
Charlene Delcourt  
Susan Desbarats  
Craig Henderson  
Gail Ingelson  
Judy Keyser  
Michael Keyser  
Bruce Massie  
Donald McLauren  
Mary Ann Murias

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### DECEASED

(You will be sadly missed.)

Robert Beyaert  
Charles Campagne

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### ACE of Clubs

<http://web2.acbl.org/As400/mpraces/unit/2011/ac390.htm>

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### Mini-McKenney

<http://web2.acbl.org/As400/mpraces/unit/2011/mm390.htm>

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# Teacher of the Year

by Murray Haggins, 2012 Calgary Regional Co-Chair

I am nominating Carol Bellam for consideration as bridge teacher of the year. Actually, I have nominated her previously as well. I wrote to Barbara Seagram at the time, but Carol was not seriously considered as she had not been teaching long enough. That made sense at the time.

I met Carol at the bridge table in 2007. It was the first duplicate game my wife and I had played in 12 years. When we came to her table she curtly asked, "What's your carding?" "Good I hope" was my snide response. After the game, it was announced there would be a free lesson next week on no-trump bidding. I tried to convince my wife that we should go especially because it was free. She didn't think there was anything we could learn; after all we played Stayman and transfers. The next week, with nothing better to do, my wife relented and we went early to the game. We walked in and there she was—the "What's your carding?" lady.

It turned out we really didn't know very much about no-trump responses. Carol was a retired school teacher, principal, academic, and school board superintendent and really was too driven to just play bridge in her retirement. She had taken up bridge during the period we were away from the game and totally immersed herself in it: reading books and magazines, corresponding with bridge authors, researching, etc. She took the directors course and the teachers accreditation course and became a life master in short order. Carol became President of the Varsity Ladies Bridge Club—I heard it was struggling BC (Before Carol) and now regularly has 12-plus tables—attended tournaments, took the position of Mentorship

Committee Chairwoman on the local unit Board 390 and started giving free lessons one hour before an under 750 game. We never missed a lesson after that. I have binders of handouts we received from Carol over the years.

It also turned out the lessons inspired us to spend thousands on bridge. Four years later, here I am, silver life master, club director, manager of **Bridge Nuts Bridge Club** (a sanction, we obtained to run fundraiser games for newcomers bridge in Calgary), dozens of stickers on my convention card from tournaments all over the continent, having driven and flown thousands of miles to these tournaments, dozens of bridge books on my bookshelf, Chairman of the 2012 Calgary Regional, and now a bridge teacher! My life was different before these "free lessons" and BC.

Carol ran classes out of her house and at the **Martinique Bridge Club** covering 2 over 1, slam bidding, defense, play of the hand and doubles. When we encountered bidding problems, we would send them to her. She sent one strange hand where she could not find a consensus amongst her peers to Eddie Kantor. I was impressed. She really popularized 2 over 1 in Calgary and introduced xyz, xynt, skewed cue bids, Ghestin, Michael's, queen ask, specific kings, inverted minors, criss-cross, super accepts and major suit raises that now are common at the club games in the unit. Needless to say she is a big influence locally.

Carol ran classes on cruise ships spreading her passion for the game globally. I understand that she regularly corresponds with bridge students around the world.

Carol and Ed Faichuk were our partners at Reno for the 2010 Spring NABC. We decided at the conclusion that Calgary needed a novice bid and play program. It wasn't a day after getting home we found out we had now partnered with the **Martinique Bridge Club** to run a beginner lesson and supervised bid and play. The word went out, ads were run and within a month we started our *Bid and Play*. Carol, Ed, my wife and I started on this journey. I wish I could say it was an instant success but there were very few tables and different people just coming and going. Carol would give a Tip of the Day tutorial for half an hour and then the students would play. We functioned as table coaches: helping, teaching, granting mulligans, do-overs and encouraging discussions. We kept the game going through the summer and enlisted help from other bridge enthusiasts.

In the fall of 2010, we started a newcomer 0-50 game giving the students the option of playing in a real game or playing with help in the *Bid and Play* side. The **Bridge Nuts** and **Bridge-R-U's** clubs ran unit games to raise funds for novice bridge and the *Bid and Play* program. The money was spent on books and mentorship free plays to involve intermediate players to improve our novices. The game has grown and lately we have had up to fifteen tables in total (Seven tables in the novice section and eight in bid and play.) We have even had some graduates who now play at regular club games and no longer play at our novice night.

Last spring something wasn't right with Carol. Her speech was slurred and there were other subtle problems. After a lengthy diagnosis, we got the

tragic news. She has ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. The disease has progressed rapidly enough to impact her speech so that she can no longer teach. Lost but not forgotten is the piercing gymnasium voice. Who needs a PA system when you've spent a lifetime making yourself heard, understood, while educating young and old. In fact every time I think about a difficult bid, lead, double or doing something dumb, I hear Carol's voice and I believe hundreds of others hear her voice on the inside. Some lessons last a lifetime. The voice on this tiny woman was unbelievable. At one regional, a former world champion presented anecdotes and stories about bridge stars. The next night Carol was

the speaker. There she spoke, without a mic in a large auditorium, on Reverse Flannery. There were lots of questions, the audience was really attentive and involved and nobody walked out early. She was very impressive and did not pale in the shadow of the bridge star.

**To: Joyce Penn**

**Re: Teacher of the Year Award**

The brightest stars are the super nova's. They burn brighter than all the rest for a short time and then extinguish leaving a black hole. Tragically we are losing our superstar. Maybe there won't be a void left. Joyce, I know you have heard from many of us who have been influenced and impassioned by this

star. I thought it was time you heard from me, again. One thing remains the same: Carol hasn't been teaching long enough! To lose someone so loved, impassioned, dedicated, energetic, able, skilled, giving, and generous is tragic for the bridge world.

I hope you consider Carol Lee Bellam a candidate for teacher of the year based on her contributions. If you need any more information please feel free to call or write me.

**Murray Haggins**  
**m.mhaggins@shaw.ca**  
**(403) 547-4023**

## Bridge People In Pictures



*Joe Achtman (93) celebrates his birthday doing what he enjoys most at the Martinique Bridge Club with his twin sons, Myron (L) and Malcolm (R)*

*Four years ago at the San Francisco NABC Chris Galbraith met Janet Dunbar. It was love at first sight at the bridge table. They were married at Dalvey By The Sea on P.E.I. on September 15, 2011. We celebrated their nuptials with a roast prime rib of beef and salmon dinner buffet and bridge party at the Martinique Bridge Club on November 13, 2011.*

