



## Unit 174 Newsletter October 2021



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Please visit the Unit 174 Website ([www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org)) to view updated information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



## President's Message

### 6<sup>th</sup> President's Message

101-year-old Holocaust survivor Eddie Jaku has passed away. After surviving Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, Jaku later moved to Australia in the 1950s. He was best known as the author of the inspirational book, *The Happiest Man on Earth*, and was described as "an inspiration and joy" by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

I mention him today because being quarantined for over a year has caused so much angst and unhappiness. Being forced to be apart from families and friends has made us all feel disconnected. The economic pressures and political differences have created tension. It's hard to "relax and smell the roses" and to those of us in the older generation, getting up in the morning entails a body check to make sure everything is still there and working, and that there are no new aches and pains.

But the wonderful attitude of Eddie Jaku is an example of the inner strength we sometimes forget we all have. Most of us fellow bridge players have good lives and have survived the pandemic. It is time to move forward and celebrate the joys of our lives. As he wisely said, "I have seen the very worst in mankind, the horrors of the death camps, the Nazi efforts to exterminate my life, and the lives of all my people. But now I consider myself the happiest man on Earth. Through all my years I have learned this: life can be beautiful if you

make it beautiful ... happiness is something we can choose. It is up to you."

Karen Nussbaum



## New Members, Rank Advancements, and Member News

### NEW MEMBERS

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and those who advanced a rank as of the 6th day of the previous month. Below are listed those players who either joined our Unit or advanced a rank. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

**Houston:** Joyce Long, Paul Overbeek, Susan Agar, and Linda Lewis

**Porter:** Tom Lyda, and Vicki Lyda

**The Woodlands:** Rajat Bhatnagar

**Willis:** Gary Eilrich

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### RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for September 21. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

*Junior Master* (5 Masterpoints) (203 in Unit 174)  
**Jane Martin, and Ellen Singer**

*Club Master* (20 Masterpoints) (204 in Unit 174)  
**Dean Minzner, Carter Nash, Ellen Rochelle, and Daniel Urban**

*Sectional Master* (50 Masterpoints) (222 in Unit 174)  
**Elizabeth Caballero, Cynthia Macholan, Daniel Macholan, and Edward Scott**

*Regional Master* (100 Masterpoints) (228 in Unit 174)  
**Jennifer Armstrong, Gulden Burdett, Scott Cantor, Mahlon First,  
Gretchen Lindquist, James Moore, Hilary Nitsun, Nancy Small,  
and Paul Ward**

*NABC Master* (200 Masterpoints) (188 in Unit 174)  
**Kathy L'Hommedieu, Ying Pan, Utako Tomoeda, and Sara Rowe**

*Life Master* (100 in Unit 174)  
**Gregory Andrews, Helen Hollis, and Michael O'Shea**

*Bronze Life Master* (252 in Unit 174)  
**Marcia Lindsey, Carol McCord, and Keith Ritter**

*Silver Life Master* (185 in Unit 174)  
**R. Englert, Billie Graves, and Ronald Schulman**

*Ruby Life Master* (164 in Unit 174)  
**Helen Pruitt**

*Gold Life Master* (104 in Unit 174)  
**Chris Kollenberg**

*Sapphire Life Master* (66 in Unit 174)  
**Robin Ladin**

**Total Unit 174 Members: 2,337**

***Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!***

## **Member News**

**Jeff Kroll** has made it into the top 10% of ACBL Players with a rank of 998 of a total of 138804 players!



## **Memorials**

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**Owen Bunn:** was born 25 Jul 1938 outside Lake Village, Arkansas, and went to heaven 14 Sep 2021. He retired as Vice President of Hancock Bank in Gulfport in 2003 when he and his wife, Pat, moved to Houston. They were married on 30 May 1959 and had two children. Owen and Pat learned to play bridge when they were teenagers and continued playing social bridge until retirement when they switched to duplicate bridge, where they met many wonderful friends.

**Joseph Martin Cunningham, Sr., 75, of Conroe, Texas:** Joe graduated from Iona Prep and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Merrimack College. He was married to Sharon Hawkins on December 30, 1967. He had a career in insurance for Johnson and Higgins as well as Marsh. Joe was a member of Chaine de Rotisseurs, a Life Master in Bridge, and had a passion for travel, food, and bridge. He served as President of the Board of the Bridge Club of Houston.

**Kristi Garrison:** passed away after a long battle with cancer. She was always cheerful and willing to help anybody. She was also known for homeschooling her children - especially Zack who became the youngest life master in ACBL at the age of 8. We will miss her sweet smile and her youthful face.

**Phyllis Rose Maness, 81, of Bryan:** left to be with her Lord and Savior, on Sunday, August 8, 2021. Phyllis was born on May 28, 1940, in New Orleans, Louisiana. After graduating from Dominican High School and Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Phyllis had a fulfilling career as a registered nurse, eventually retiring as a nursing home administrator. Phyllis married James "Jim" Maness, and they spent 60 years together and raised four children. The family was most important to Phyllis and Jim; her time with family were some of her fondest memories. A natural caregiver, her home became a home for many of her children's friends. She made

everyone feel at home and had a natural ability to make anyone feel at ease with her, whether it be through her work as a nurse or in her own home. Phyllis was an avid bridge player and earned her life master rank as part of the American Contract Bridge League where her involvement gained her many friends and travel opportunities. Through her example, she taught her children to have love for others, and to make anyone feel welcome. She was joyful and full of compassion. She was always a happy person, one that wanted to share her happiness with others.

**Wally Klugiewicz:** affectionately known as "Wally" passed away on 21 Jul 2021. Wally was a Gold Life Master and was known for being an exceptionally good bridge player, Born 20 Jun 1935, he was known for using pencil stubs (about 1-2 " long) to record the contract and scores on his score sheet - something that was also his trademark in Florida where he managed a bridge club prior to moving to the Houston area.

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## **174** Unit News

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### **UNIT 174 STaC Games**

SILVER POINTS! Unit 174 STaC Week - Monday, November 1st - Sunday, November 7th!

Check to see if your Club is holding a FACE-TO-FACE STaC GAME (SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT CLUBS) during the first week in November. Only Face-To-Face Games may participate.

If you have any questions, contact Joyce Gore, STaC Organizer, at 281-437-7467 or joygore@comcast.net.

### **Reservations Open for Austin NABC!**

Austin, Texas is hosting a North American Bridge Championship this November! The NABCs are hosted by ACBL and held three times a year at varying locations across the U.S. and Canada.

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## Club News

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Below please find the information reported to us by the clubs in our Unit. Please send your club news to [unit174newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:unit174newsletter@gmail.com). Your information must be received by the 15th of the month to be

included in the monthly Unit 174 Newsletter. Additional information on all our clubs can be found on the [Unit 174 website](#). Or, click a club name to jump to the club website.

## **APPLE CLUBS**

Our games begin at 11:30 am sharp at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr. 77042. Please plan to arrive by 11:15. Virtual club games Wednesdays at 3 pm. All games at \$3/person.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Paul Cuneo  
[paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net) - 281-851-0422

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer  
[sandiferdb@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information at [appledbcs.com](http://appledbcs.com).

Current requirements:

- **All players must furnish proof of vaccination. You may do that by bringing your vaccination card to the game or sending a photo of it to Paul.**
- **Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are permitted. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You're welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.**

## **BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON**

### **Mentor/Mentee Games**

**1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm, Contact Roxie Walker for reservations: 713-203-5877 or [roxie\\_w@hotmail.com](mailto:roxie_w@hotmail.com)**

### **BCOH Open Games (Face 2 Face)**

**Monday: 11:55am**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 am**

**Tuesday: 9:30- Free Lessons**

**10:30 am - Newcomers game (0-50 players)**

**"8 is Enough" - October 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**

(Register at the club or call 281-651-6550)

**Beverages and snacks provided for all F2F games**

**Proof of vaccination required for all F2F games**

## **Choose Houston - BBO Online Games**

Online Games for all levels every day!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:50 AM	199er						
9:55 AM				0-50 FLM Gemini			
10:00 AM	499er						
10:10 AM	Open						
11:50 AM						199er	
12:00 PM						Open	
2:45 PM	299er	0-100 FLM Discovery	299er	0-100 FLM Discovery	299er		
3:00 PM	749er						
3:05 PM		0-20 FLM Apollo	Open				
3:30 PM	Open			Open			
7:00 PM		Open	3:00 PM	Open		Open	

Check the club and FLM websites for the most up-to-date information.

## CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB

There are several new events being added to our Clear Lake Bridge Club offerings during October. We hope that these events are successful and carry on into November and December. Visit: [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org)

Tuesday Game Change - **0- 749ers** - our weekly games will be at 10:00 a.m.

### **Breakfast, Bridge and a Lesson**

Starting Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Breakfast at 9:10 a.m.

Lesson presenter: Rick Stell at 9:40 a.m.

Trump Lead Tidbits

Open Game - 18 Boards starts at 10:00

### **Breakfast, Bridge and a Lesson**

Continuing Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Breakfast at 9:10 a.m.

Lesson presenter: Dave Glandorf at 9:40 a.m.

Balancing Bids

Open Game - 18 Boards starts at 10:00 a.m.

**Mentor/Mentee** Game on October 20, 2021, with lunch and game starting at 2:00 p.m. Grab your Mentor and enjoy an afternoon of bridge.

## **H A L L O W E E N**

Costumes, Open Game, and Lunch - 10:00 a.m. with lunch right after the game. Prizes for the BEST Costume by popular vote. Come join haunting and Ghouls and have fun.

Face to Face Tableside at Clear Lake Bridge Club: Stay tuned via our website at [www.clearbridgeclub.org](http://www.clearbridgeclub.org) for more updated information.

**Activate your life...come back to the tables! And when you do play online, please remember to CHOOSE HOUSTON!**

## CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Cypress NW DBC meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, Tx, and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at noon, with sign-up beginning at 11:30. For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com).

### Extra masterpoints

**Tuesday, Nov 2: Unit 174 STac Game, \$5/player**  
**Thursday, Nov 4: Unit 174 STac Game, \$5/player**  
**Tuesday, Nov 9: Club Membership, \$3/player**  
**Thursday, Nov 11: Club Membership, \$3/player**

**Tuesday, Dec 7: Unit 174 STac Game, \$5/player**  
**Thursday, Dec 9: Unit 174 STac Game, \$5/player**

Masks are optional. Coffee, ice tea, and snacks are provided. Proof of vaccination is required to play.

### **FORT BEND DBC**

**Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge-We Are Open!**  
**Come Play Live Bridge! Open Game Tuesdays at 9 am**

- > You must be fully vaccinated; bring your shot record if you have not had it verified before
- > Masks are strongly encouraged
- > Hand sanitizer throughout the playing area
- > Coffee and individually wrapped snacks
- > We use Bridge Mate II bridge pads
- > Club championship in October and November
- > Hand records after every game
- > Nice balance of friendly a, b, & c players
- > Most games are only \$5.00 per player

Contact: Eric Watson [ewat2004@aol.com](mailto:ewat2004@aol.com) 832 287 9107  
Location: Jacks Conference Center 3232 Austin Parkway Sugar Land, TX 77479

### **FUTURE LIFE MASTERS (FLM)**

FLM had so so much fun and gained so much experience by attending the 499er/NLM Tournament Sept 30-Oct 3. The Club actually dedicated Saturday, October 2nd to the FLM players and the FLM Team! Thanks to BCoH for that tribute!

We continue to focus on our newcomers, and our attendance is increasing.

### **SCHEDULE OF GAMES**

#### **APOLLO: 0-20 Masterpoints**

**Tuesday: 3:00 pm Houston U174 FLM Apollo 0-20**  
**Assisted Play**

**2nd Saturday: 9:00 am Houston FLM Apollo 0-20**  
**Assisted Play & Board Review**

#### **GEMINI: 0-50 Masterpoints**

**Monday: 4:00 pm D16 0-50 FLM Gemini**  
**Thursday: 9:55 am ChooseHouston 0-50 FLM**  
**Gemini**

#### **DISCOVERY: 0-99 Masterpoints**

**Tuesday: 2:45 pm ChooseHouston FLM Discovery**

**4th Wednesday: 3:10 pm ChooseHouston FLM Mixer  
Madness**

**Thursday: 2:45 pm ChooseHouston FLM Discovery**

ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE A BBO SCREEN NAME WITH AN  
ACBL# IN THEIR BBO ACCOUNT.

**ALL NEWCOMERS, PLEASE JOIN US!**

To learn more about our FLM Playing Groups, CLICK HERE: [Future  
Life Masters](#)



**KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**



Katy DB meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:30, and the game begins at noon. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084. For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or **[jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com)**.

Proof of vaccination is required to play.

### **KT Duplicate Morning Bridge**

KT Bridge will begin morning-sanctioned bridge games in beautiful downtown Katy. The games will be held each Tuesday at 11:45 am. Players must be fully vaccinated and show their shot card at check-in. Masks are not required. Please text or email me to reserve a place. If you need a partner please let me know and I will try to pair you with another player.

Location: 6050 Whispering Lakes Drive, Katy, Texas 77493

When: Check-in 11:00 to 11:35 am. Play Starts 11:45

Bob Lee - 713 557 4077, [Relee321@gmail.com](mailto:Relee321@gmail.com)

### **LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

Lake Conroe is open for face-to-face games. Games are \$8 and are held every Friday at 10:30 am.

The LCBC is nonprofit and very supportive of charities throughout Montgomery County.

To play at LCDBC, we require full Covid vaccination, but masks are optional.

Please bring your lunch, as there are refrigerators and microwaves for your use. We provide coffee, tea, and snacks.

For further info, contact Penny Grassedonio at 832-361-4577 or [czthdaypjg@gmail.com](mailto:czthdaypjg@gmail.com).

### **LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB**

Lone Star Bridge Club hosts face-to-face games on Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 10:30 am. Games are \$5 per person. Proof of vaccination is mandatory, and masks are optional. The Lone Star Bridge Club is located at St. Paul UMC, 1100 W Semands, Conroe.

Special Games: The rest of October and most of November are special games with extra points. We are having three STAC games- Monday 11/1, Thursday 11/4, and an ADDITIONAL STAC GAME ON TUESDAY 11/2 AT 10:30 am.

Free lesson from Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll on the first Monday of each month at 11 am, before the game. On November 1st, Jeff plans to talk about when to open 1NT with a five-card major; as well as when to play in a no-trump contract and when to

play in your 8-card major suit fit (when to use Stayman). And finally, how to identify a singleton on the opening lead.

Thursday, November 11th we are serving FREE PIZZA and veterans will play for free. Proof of Covid Vaccination is Mandatory and masks are optional. We have coffee and bottled water and individually wrapped snacks.

If you need a partner, please get in touch with Sandra Maalouf - 936-597-8756  
We serve only individually wrapped snacks, coffee, and bottled water.

For questions about the club, contact Linda Sutton at [LindaSutton212@gmail.com](mailto:LindaSutton212@gmail.com), 936-443-3600 or go to our website: [www.lonestarbridgeclub.org](http://www.lonestarbridgeclub.org)

### **KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

Katy DB meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:30, and the game begins at noon. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084. For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745 or [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com)**.

#### **Extra masterpoints**

**Wednesday, Nov 3: Unit 174 STac Game, \$5/player**  
**Wednesday, Nov10: Club Membership, \$3/player**  
**Thursday, Nov 11: Club Membership, \$3/player**

**Wednesday, Dec 8: Unit 174 STac Game, \$5/player**

Masks are optional. Coffee, ice tea, and snacks are provided. Proof of vaccination is required to play.

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## **Available Classes**

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### **[St. Martin's Episcopal Bridge Class - Instructor Tom Janke](#)**

#### **ST. MARTIN'S IS BACK!**

After almost a 2-year hiatus, St. Martin's has completed renovations as of August 31. The activity center and the St. Martin's Cafe are both open!

Beginning Bridge is scheduled for Mondays from 10-12 am. Register online with the church at this website: [stmartinsepiscopal.org](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org). \$120 for 8 weeks beginning September 13. (No class October 11.)

Traditional supervised play is scheduled for 1-3 Mondays. No pre-registration is required for this class. Just come on in. \$10 each week. (No class October 11.)

St. Martin's Cafe is also open from 11-1 Monday-Thursday. This is a world-class cafe serving lunch with many varieties of entrees and other choices each day. It's fun to come for lunch, visit with the other players and friends, then head up for supervised play.

The location of the church is 717 Sage, Houston, 77056.

**Covid Vaccination is strongly requested.  
Anyone not vaccinated must wear a mask.**

**New classes will begin there again in January.**

Tom Jahnke  
713-824-0693  
[tomtomj211@yahoo.com](mailto:tomtomj211@yahoo.com)

### Joyce Ryan

Joyce Ryan is now teaching at St John the Divine at River Oaks Blvd and Westheimer.

### Jeff Kroll - Lone Star College Class

Where: Lone Star College, at the University Center at the Hwy 242/Montgomery Campus.

When: Both classes are 1:00 - 3::00

March 22 - What does the Standard Bridge Bids Mean?

March 29 - What are the most common mistakes in Bridge?



## Guest Editors

### Thinking Ahead By Thomas Rush

An interesting hand came up not long ago on BBO. Your hand is



That's right, you're 7-6 in the minors. After you say "Wow!" and look around the table, you realize that you are dealer with all vulnerable. What's your opening bid?

Perhaps there are several levels of players who picked up this hand. One might say, "I only have ten high card points, I can't open!" and so they pass.

The next might say, "I meet the rule of 20 (number of cards in two longest suits (13) plus high card points (10) total at least 20), so I can open, and I'll bid my longest suit and open 1C."

Another might say, "This hand has too much playing strength to pass, so I'll open 1C and reverse into diamonds." I suspect a lot of intermediate and advanced players might choose that auction. If you do, the auction goes like this:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1C	4H	4S	P
??			

What's your second call? You could reverse into diamonds here, but I have never heard of a reverse at the five-level. You sure don't want to pass partner when you have a void in his suit! You could bid 4NT and hope P takes it as asking him to bid a minor, but will he see it as an ace ask, and it lead to disaster? Last, you can bid 5C. Which option do you choose?

The point of this hand isn't what you do at this point, It's to encourage you to think about your rebid before you open 1C. Yes, you can reverse, and that's a nice option over, say, 1C - 1S, where you have room to bid 2D and probably even 3D and hint at your shape.

But you know two things before you make your first call: First, the chance of a misfit is high. Partner may be nearly as stacked in the majors as we are in the minors -- and on misfits, we want to keep the bidding slow and probably low. Second, with you being so short (0-0!) in the majors, the opponents may have a big major-suit fit (and will, if your partner has a fit for one or both of your suits!) and you should expect them to be willing to preempt if their distribution is as wild as yours is.

Because of those two bits of knowledge, I am going to recommend that you consider taking the "low road" with this hand, and open 1D, planning to rebid in clubs and clubs again if you get the chance. It is true that you're showing a 6-5 or 6-6 hand with that sequence

(rather than the 6-7 you might get to show if you open 1C), but my experience (and the actual auction we had) says that it's OK to treat this as a 6-6 hand for the sake of better accuracy and a better chance to show the 6-6, compared to almost no chance to be able to show the 6-7 shape.

My recommendations:

1. Think about how the auction might go before you bid, especially when you know the distribution is bonkers.
2. Be willing to make a practical bid that may distort your distribution a bit if it is likely to let you paint a more accurate picture of your hand than the scientifically accurate auction that you'll never get a chance to execute.

Thus, open 1D and bid your clubs as many times as necessary.

For those of you who want to know what happened at the table, we did not get a good board, and it's my fault (my partner held the 6-7 monster you see above). The hand was played 169 times in a recent ACBL 18-board game on BBO. You can see the traveller at

<https://www.bridgebase.com/myhands/hands.php?traveller=69241-1631905800-81397955>

The contracts were all over the place -- from 7D (cold) and any number of diamonds or clubs by our side making (except for 6C, which typically fails), to different numbers of spades by our side failing, and many different heart contracts by the other side, taking nine tricks. The full hand:

<div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <span style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">10</span> <span style="font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold;">D</span> </div>	<b>N</b> ♠ A1073 ♥ 942 ♦ Q3 ♣ QJ82	<b>W    N    E    S</b>			
			1♣    4♥ 4♠    P    5♣    5♥ X    P    P    P		
<b>W</b> ♠ KQJ952 ♥ J6 ♦ AJ95 ♣ 4		<b>E</b> ♠ ♥ ♦ K108762 ♣ AK109753			
	<b>S</b> ♠ 864 ♥ AKQ108753 ♦ 4 ♣ 6				5♥x S      NS: 0 EW: 0

I note in passing that if you look at the auctions, you'll see some of

the worst auctions in 21st-century bridge on this one hand.

Here is the list of contracts and how many times each was played:

Our Side Contract Times Played	Times Played	Their Side Contract
7Dx 1	1	6Hx
7D 1	1	6H
7Cx 15	1	5Hx
6S 18	1	5H
6Dx 2	3	4Hx
6Cx 3	4	4H
6D	20	
6C	4	
5Sx	1	
5S	3	
5Dx	1	
5D	28	
5Cx	11	
5C	16	
4Sx	5	
4S	27	
3S	1	

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## October 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes

### Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt

The articles that we think would be the most beneficial for most ACBL members are listed below. Three are described in more detail on the following pages.

1. "The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn:
  - a. Problem 5 (p.40): Making a cue bid to show spades and a minor finds the excellent spade slam.
  - b. Problem 6 (page 40): Opening 1NT with the singleton Q to avoid a rebid problem finds the best contract: 2.
2. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p.46-47), deal #2: Keeping the dangerous hand off lead.
3. "Parrish the Thought by Adam Parrish (p 47): Making an inference to figure out what the defender has when he makes an unattractive lead.

4. "Lessons Learned" by Michael Berkowitz (p 50): Making lead directing calls.
5. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p. 53): When to open 1NT with a five-card major. Think about your second bid before making your first. He detests bidding Puppet Stayman over 2NT openings.
6. "Challenge of the Month" (p 53, 57): Plan to discard losers, making the finesse unnecessary.
7. "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p 54). Both deals are straightforward if you count your tricks.
8. "Mike's Bridge Lesson" by Mike Lawrence (p. 55): Making the contract via an end play.
9. "Better Bidding with Bergen" by Marty Bergen (p. 59): When to be aggressive in third seat.
10. "Bidding Matters" by Karen Walker (p. 60): when and when not to use Stayman holding a flat hand. While most writers (Helms, this month and others in the past) advocate not using Stayman with a flat hand, Walker identifies situations where it might work well.
11. "Test Your Play by Eddie Kantar (p. 61), Deal #1: Take all your chances.

Dlr: South ♠ K J 7 2  
 Vul: None ♥ A 10 4 3  
 ♦ Q 10  
 ♣ 8 6 3

♠ 8 5 3  
 ♥ K J 9 8 2  
 ♦ K 9  
 ♣ K Q 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	All Pass	1♥

Lead: ♣A  
 The lead is very helpful: it set up your K-Q, saving a loser.

### Our favorite Hands Page 47, "Parrish the Thought" by Adam Parrish - Inferences from unattractive leads

West is a good player. Leading an unsupported ace is generally a poor lead against a suit contract. Course underleading an ace against a suit contract is even worse. So, why did West do it?

West must not have had a decent, let alone good, lead to make or he

would not have led the ♣A. He is likely to have the other two missing aces, which would make them also unappealing. He might consider leading trump, but not holding Qxx. Assuming West to be a good player, we would play for West to have a holding similar to this: ♠A104, ♥Q76, ♦A876, ♣A54. So, we would finesse West for the ♥Q, ignoring the general rule of trying to drop it with only four cards out in the suit. If West were not holding the ♥Q, a heart lead would have been better than the ♣A. After trumps are in, we would lead a spade to the king, as we are playing West for the ♣A. If West

were not holding the ♠A, a spade lead would have been better than the ♣A. We end up losing the three aces and the ♠Q. Making three.

**CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH**

Dlr: South ♠ AKJ108  
 Vul: Both ♥ A432  
 IMPs ♦ 3  
 ♣ 765

♠ 92  
 ♥ QJ10  
 ♦ AKQJ107  
 ♣ AJ

As South, you arrive in 6♦ against silent opponents. West leads the ♣K. Can you guarantee your contract?

**Page 53, “Challenge of the Month” - Discard rather than finesse**

As long as you plan properly, 6♦ is cold, assuming there are no horrible splits. There is no need to take the 50%/50% spade finesse. Just win the ♣A and draw trumps. Then cash the ♠AK. If it’s your lucky day the ♠Q will drop and you will make seven: 5 spades, 1 heart, 6 diamonds, and 1 club. Usually,

it’s not your lucky day, and you will lose the ♠Q. Pitch your losing club on the third spade, and take the rest. Making six.

Dlr: South ♠ A65  
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ94  
 IMPs ♦ A763  
 ♣ 43

♠ KQ  
 ♥ AQ10763  
 ♦ Q82  
 ♣ AQ

You wind up in 6♥ as South against silent opponents, facing the lead of the ♠J. Plan the play.

**Page 61, “Test Your Play,” Del #1, by Eddie Kantar - Take all your chances**

This deal is from the advanced section, but there’s nothing advanced about it. “Take all your chances” is one of Kantar’s favorite themes (It’s also one of ours). When declaring a hand, note the various ways that you can develop the tricks

you need and then play so you can take as many chances as possible to make those tricks. Your opportunities for extra tricks are:

1. Lead a low diamond to the queen. If East has the ♦K, then your ♦Q will be good.
2. Diamonds could split 3-3, then dummy’s 4th diamond will be good.
3. You can take the club finesse.

So, win the ♠K and pull trump with the ♥AQ. You then cash the ♠Q. Go to dummy with a trump and lead a diamond to the queen. If East



holds the ♦K, you have 12 tricks: three spades, two diamonds (A, Q), six hearts, and one club. Making six.

If East does not hold the ♦K, go to dummy with the ♦A, then make the key play of pitching your third diamond on the ♠A. Then play a third diamond from dummy and ruff. If both defenders follow, then dummy's fourth diamond is good and you have 12 tricks: three spades, two diamonds (A, 13th), six hearts and one club. Making six.

Finally, if the diamonds do not split, try the club finesse for two club tricks.

It's important to take the club finesse last because if it loses, you will go down as you would lose a diamond and a club.

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## From the Editors

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### **Starting in November, the focus of the Unit 174 Newsletter will be:**

- Letter from the Unit 174 President
- Member accomplishments
- Memorials (coordinated by Carol Lombardino)
- The unit business that the board would like to communicate to the members
- Club news and events including online clubs like FLM and Choose Houston
- Two monthly guest articles

The unique email associated with this effort is [unit174newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:unit174newsletter@gmail.com).

If you would like to have your club info or an article of interest published in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and event title to [unit174newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:unit174newsletter@gmail.com) and your name will be added to the request for newsletter information email list for next month.

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