



*December*



## Unit 174 December 2024 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

### **President's Message**

### **New Members and Rank Advancements**

### **Member Profile**

### **Unit News**

#### ***Flyers***

***BCOH 0-50 Game***

***2025 D16 NAP Finals***

***2025 Max Levit Lone Star Regional***

***2025 Max Levit Lone Star Regional Event Naming***

***99er Nite Club***

***199er Nite Club***

***Future Life Masters***

### ***2024 Club Table Counts***

### ***D16 Teacher of the Year Nominations***

### **Club News**

***Apple Clubs***

***Bridge Academy of West Houston***

***Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)***

***Choose Houston - Basic Online Schedule***

***Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)***

***Cypress Northwest DBC & Katy DBC***

***Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club - Sugar Land***

***Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club***

***Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club (LCDBC)***

***Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC)***

***Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club***

***Star Duplicate Bridge Club***

### **Contributors**

***Joe Quinn - Exclusion Blackwood***

***Joe Siqueira - Communicating on Defense***

## In Memoriam

### From the Editor

Please visit the Unit 174 [Website](#) to view additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



**Sarah Springer**

## President's Message

On behalf of your unit's Board of Directors I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season, filled with friends, family, lots of good things to eat, and of course great bridge games. I along with many members of our unit will be starting the season at the Nationals in Las Vegas. I plan on doing some shopping, fine dining, attending a couple of shows, and playing bridge! I hope to see many of you there, and I'll try to keep populating our Facebook page with your happy faces.

There is no rest for the weary, however. The board is already very busy getting everything together for the Max Levit Lone Star Regional. You may have noticed the changes on the flyer and the website - Lynne Levit generously has sponsored the entire tournament in honor of her wonderful husband Max, who passed away recently. He was a longtime member of Unit 174 and a staple at area games - he will be missed, and he is greatly honored with this naming. Marsha Bernstein still has naming opportunities available, so don't miss your chance to honor your loved one, friend or bridge partner. It is a great way to say that person is special, and to support your unit. (Check the naming flyer in this newsletter for Marsha's contact information and the ways you can name that special event.)

We have had some issues with the calendar and Shriners, so our April Election Sectional will be at the Westchase Marriott instead of the Shriners. We are arranging a great room rate, so if you are coming from the far reaches of the unit, we will have a great place to stay and lots of restaurants from which to choose in addition to the great offerings at the hotel. We have six wonderful candidates running for the next board, so be sure to study up on them and cast your vote for three of the six. Look for details in next month's *Scorecard*, January's newsletter and on our [website](#).

The board approved the elimination of the August Sectional due to poor participation at this past event. Please step up your support for our tournaments by attending, and perhaps we can bring it back. We don't want competitive bridge to die, so we need the infusion of your enthusiasm and participation.

Galveston attendance numbers have been down year after year as well. So much effort is put into running these tournaments so it is sad to see this trend. The 2025 October Sectional will likely be in the northern part of our District, so stay tuned for announcements and please plan to attend.

In closing, I again wish you a wonderful Holiday Season. This is a special time of year for all of us, full of memories of the past, enjoyment of friends and family in the present, and anticipation of good things in the new year. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Winter Solstice or however you celebrate, best wishes! And here's to a very happy and successful new year! Let's turn the page on the pandemic for good. Come out to the clubs to play F2F, support the area tournaments and most of all enjoy bridge!

Sarah Springer  
[sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com)

---

## New Members and Rank Advancement



## New Members

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and those who transferred into our Unit. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

**New Members:** Ada Alston, Leslie Alston, Mary Bange, Marilyn Burns, Guy Curry, Joe Cusack, Nina Dodd, Susan Herman, Lawrence Lachman, Xueqian Lin, Kai Liu, Donna Nebel, Walter Oakes, Harper Paddock, Piyush Shah, Ellen Sheedy

**Transfers:** Gregory Andrews, Dr. Gary Eilrich, Bitsy Klein, Michael T Klein

***Welcome!***



## Rank Advancements

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of November 1, 2024. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

### **Junior Master**

Beverly A Braden, Ryo Chen, Patricia R Cowan, David Fritz, Jennifer Gottschalk, Sandra McNeir, Amy Schuh

### **Club Master**

Neil R Anderson, Giorgio A Drugovich, Mrs. Nancy L McWilliams, Shuangxing Yu, Xiaoxing Yu, Deborah Zissman

### **Sectional Master**

Niels H Kastrup, Joan Land, Weijun Zhu

### **Regional Master**

Mrs. Traci McCaskill, Edward P McKee

### **NABC Master**

Mr. Thomas M O'Donnell

### **Life Master**

Cindy Hempel, Don J Hempel, Mr. Robert D Lane

### **Silver Life Master**

Jerry N Hoffman, Hasin F Jinna

### **Ruby Life Master**

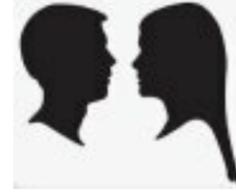
Mrs. Joy E Cogburn, Donna J Mann, Sarah P Springer

### **Platinum Life Master**

Mrs. Betty K Starzec

**!!! Congratulations !!!**

# Member Profile



We have no member profile this month. If you know someone who we should recognize, please email [Unit174News@gmail.com](mailto:Unit174News@gmail.com).



## Unit News

## Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
November 30 – December 1	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
December 2-8	D16		174	Sectional	STaC
December 2-8	D16		173	Sectional	STaC
January 2-5, 2025	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
January 16-18	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Local
January 16-19	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
January 29 – February 1	Dallas [DFW]	TX	176	Sectional	Open
February 1-2	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
February 3-9	Houston	TX	174	Regional	Open
February 6-9	Ajjic	JA	205	Sectional	Open
February 12-14	Puerto Vallarta	JA	205	Sectional	Open
February 15 -16	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	I/N
February 25 – March 2	San Miguel De Allende	GJ	173	Regional	Open
February 25 - 27	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
March 6-8	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Open
March 6-8	Beaumont	TX	201	Sectional	Open
March 6-9	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
March 26-29	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
April 4-6	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
April 4-6	Houston	TX	D16	GNT	Finals
April 24-27	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
April 30 – May 3	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
June 6-9	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
June 9-15			D16	STaC	Open
June 19-22	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
August 7-10	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
September 11-14	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N

You can find tournament information by clicking [ACBL Tourneys](#).

## BCOH 0-50 Game



**New 0-50mp Bridge Game**

**On Sundays**

**Starting January 19th**

**At 1:30 pm**

**Where:** Bridge Club of Houston  
4688 Louetta Road  
(NE corner of Louetta and Kuykendahl)  
Spring , TX 77388

**For more information contact:**

Carol McCord

[bridgewithCarol@gmail.com](mailto:bridgewithCarol@gmail.com)

936-650-8180



---

## 2025 D16 NAP Finals



**January 11-12, 2025  
(Saturday & Sunday)**

**Bridge Center of Austin**

6700 Middle Fiskville Austin, Texas 78752  
(near IH-35 & US290E)

\$14.00 / Person / Session  
Free Meal on Sunday for Those Qualifying  
Free Coffee & Refreshments

Game Times: 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Two-Session Qualifying Event on Saturday  
Two-Session Final Event on Sunday

If eight or less tables are in a flight, the  
two-session final event is on Saturday.

*Please Note:* These events are **NOT** held in conjunction with  
the previous week's Austin sectional tournament.

Event Chair: Larry Davis (larrysdavis@att.net, 512-343-6942)



---

**2025 Max Levit Lone Star Regional**



# MAX LEVIT



## LONE STAR REGIONAL FEBRUARY 3-9, 2025



### Tournament Chairs

- ♥ Sarah Springer  
(281) 904-5791  
sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com
- ♥ Dave Becker  
(214) 274-2978  
dbecker03@hotmail.com
- ♥ Linda McReynolds  
(713) 819-7812  
lindamcreynolds@comcast.net

### Partnership Chairs

- ♣ James Sells  
(281) 785-5295  
jamesells@live.com
- ♣ Linda McReynolds  
(713) 819-7812  
lindamcreynolds@comcast.net



### Tournament Hotel

**Marriott Houston Westchase**  
2900 Briar Park Drive  
Houston, TX 77042



- ♣ \$129 Room Rate
- ♣ Call (713) 978-7400
- ♣ Ask for ACBL Bridge rate
- ♣ Cut-off Date: Jan 12, 2025
- ♣ Reserve Early before it's sold out!
- ♣ <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1694898652688&key=GRP>

### Hospitality

- ♥ Complimentary ACBL labels
  - Email in advance to lsrlabels@gmail.com
  - Include Name, City, State, ACBL #
  - Pickup at Hospitality Desk
- ♥ Awards at Hospitality Desk
- ♥ Welcome gift
- ♥ Daily Breakfast items
- ♥ Complimentary morning coffee until game time
- ♥ Hot Dog lunch on Friday
- ♥ Ice Cream on Saturday
- ♥ Buffet Lunch on Sunday

### Future Life Masters

- ♦ FLM Day Tues for 0-99ers
- ♦ 1 Free play on Tues or Sat for 0-99ers



### Game Fees

- ♣ Mon-Fri \$16
- ♣ ACBL Charity Game \$17
- ♣ Saturday \$17 (\$1 for NABC)
- ♣ Sunday \$18 (lunch included w/2 session entry)
- ♣ Cashless = cc only



### Best Practices Teacher Workshop

- ♦ Sat Feb 1 8:00-5:00
- ♦ Sun Feb 2 8:00-Noon
- ♦ Registration Fee \$50
- ♦ Contact Karen Nussbaum  
(832) 524-5233  
kareunit174@gmail.com





# MAX LEVIT LONE STAR REGIONAL 2025



Houston Marriott Westchase Convention Center

## Monday, February 3

ACBL Charity Fund Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session	.....	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

\*Players may play in one or both sessions.

## Tuesday, February 4

99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session*	.....	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

\*Players may play in one or both sessions.

## Wednesday, February 5

Top Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session**	..	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

\*Players may play in one or both sessions.

## Thursday, February 6

Top Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session**	..	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

\*Players may play in one or both sessions.

## Stratification & Flighting

Top Flight Pairs:	A: 6000+	X: 0-6000		
Open Pairs:	A: 5000+	B: 2000-5000	C: 0-2000	
Mid-Flight Pairs:	B: 1500-3500	C: 0-1500		
299ers:	B: 200-300	C: 100-200	D: 0-100	
Gold Rush:	B: 500-750	C: 300-500	D: 0-300	

\* Strats may be adjusted by the director to balance for strength of players.

## Friday, February 7

Top Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session**	..	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

\*Players may play in one or both sessions.

## Saturday, February 8

99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session	.....	10 & 2:30
ON-LINE Open Pairs*	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

\*Players may play in one or both sessions.

\*Instructions on the Unit 174 website at [ACBLunit174.org](http://ACBLunit174.org).

## Sunday, February 9

Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	9 & 1:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session	.....	9 & TBA

\*Players may play in one or both sessions.

\* Early start to finish in time for Super Bowl LIX.

## Hospitality Chair

► Peaches Eads  
(713) 569-7700  
hallieeads@aol.com

## I/N Chair

► Tracy Meyer  
(910) 685-5615  
tracy.meyer.tx@gmail.com

## Event Naming

► Marsha Bernstein  
(713) 857-6088  
marshabernstein@att.net

**NOTE:** Be scent-sitive - this is a fragrance-free tournament.  
No offensive odors.

# 2025 Max Levit Lone Star Regional Event Naming

# Naming Opportunities



## LONE STAR REGIONAL Houston



**FEBRUARY 3-9. 2025**

The Lone Star Regional provides an excellent opportunity for you to honor a friend, loved one, another bridge player, or someone significant who has left us. You can purchase an event, an entire day, or the entire tournament to honor your person. There will be a poster at the playing site with your honoree's photograph and a write up, and the same information will be in the Daily Bulletin on the day of your named event. Your honoree's name will be the name of the event, such as "Winston Churchill Open Pairs" and the FastResults will report the games as they are named.

- Entire Tournament ..... \$7,500
- All Games For Entire Day ..... \$1,000
- Charity Fund Pairs ..... Single-Session ..... Monday ..... \$125
- 0-20 Pairs ..... Single-Session ..... Monday ..... \$125
- 99er & 299er Combo ..... Single-Session ..... Mon thru Sat ..... \$125
- Side Pairs - Morn/Aft/Eve ..... Single-Session ..... Mon thru Sat ..... \$125
- Open Pairs ..... Double-Session ..... Mon thru Sat ..... \$200
- Gold Rush Pairs ..... Double-Session ..... Mon thru Sat ..... \$200
- Bracketed Swiss 1-day ..... Double-Session ..... Mon thru Sun ..... \$200
- Evening Swiss ..... Double-Session ..... Tue/Wed or Thu/Fri ..... \$200
- Braketed Swiss ..... Double-Session ..... Sunday ..... \$200
- Sunday Side Games ..... Single-Session ..... Sunday ..... \$75

If an entire day is named, then all one-day events will be part of that package including the Side Games, 49er/299er, Gold Rush and Swiss games.

Make checks payable to Unit 174. Please provide a picture and write-up (about 100 words) of your honoree for the Daily Bulletin and Poster Board.

Sponsoring Corporate or other promotional gifts for Hospitality will be handled on an individual basis.

### Event Naming

Marsha Bernstein  
(713) 857-6088  
marshabernstein@att.net

## 99er Nite Club



# THE 99er Nite Club East

**GREAT PLAY, LESSONS  
& LOADS OF FUN!**

**And...It's only for you, New Players!**

District 16 now has a BBO game just  
for the 0 to 99 players

**the "99er Nite Club East"!**

**When: 6pm, 7 days a week**

**Where: ACBL Clubhouse\***

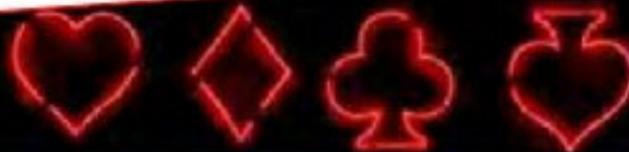
**Perks:**

✓ **More Masterpoints**  
(cross club scoring)

✓ **Mini-Lessons**  
by Lynn Berg at 5:30 pm

\*Check to make sure your club is participating.  
If your club has questions they should  
contact Janice Rush at:

[janice\\_hardcastle@hotmail.com](mailto:janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com)



**199er Nite Club**

# 199er Nite Club East

*Ready to Graduate from  
the 0 to 99 Game?*

## **D16's 199er NITE CLUB EAST GAME ON BBO IS YOUR NEXT STEP!**

**7 DAYS A WEEK AT 6:00 PM CST**

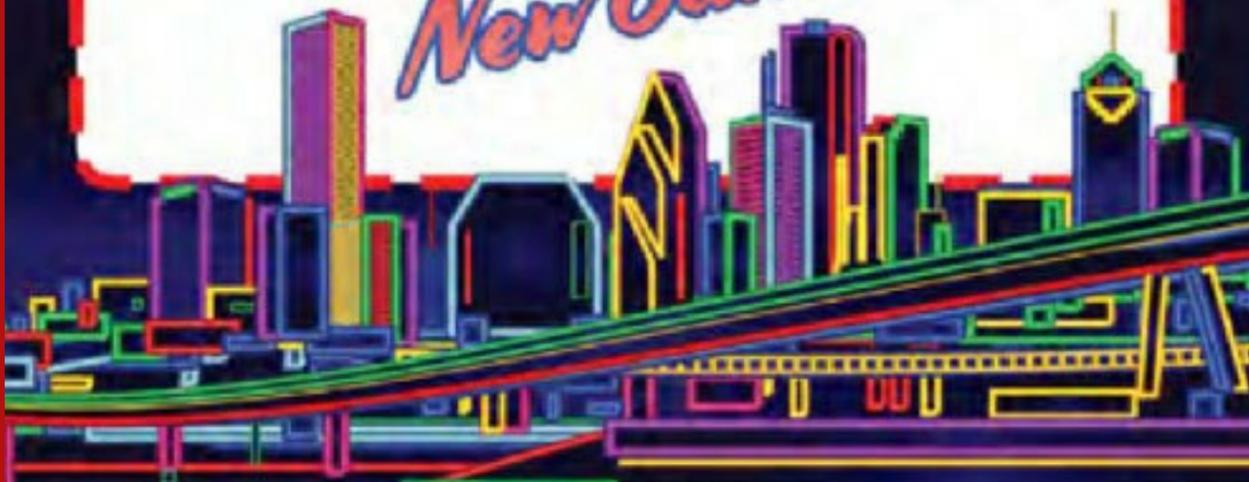
- ✓ Recent graduates of the 0 to 99 group can play in a game with players of the same ability.
- ✓ Work during the day? Graduates continue to grow skills at a time that's "worker friendly".
- ✓ Safe environment where no sharks are allowed, because the game is limited to 199 mpts.
- ✓ Clubs benefit too and continue to receive payments for their participating players.

*Clubs must be signed up to participate, just like for the 99er NITE CLUB game.*

*Contact Janice Rush for details:*

*janice\_hardcastle@hotmail.com*

*New Game in Town*



**Future Life Masters**



Future Life Masters of Unit 174

www.flm174.org

*The fun is just beginning!*



## WEEKLY 49er Game! Beginning Jan 19, 2025

**EVERY Sunday afternoon at 1:30**

**\$5.00**

**Hosted by Bridge Club of Houston**

**4876 Louetta**

**Spring, Tx**

**This will be a Supervised Play for the  
newest players to enjoy & win masterpoints!**

### Regular Club Games

#### Face-to-Face

##### 299er Games

- Bridge Academy of West Houston WEDNESDAYS at 10:30
- Bridge Club of Houston SATURDAYS at 12:00
- Clear Lake Bridge Club MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS at 2:00

#### Mentor-Mentee Games

Contact the following clubs to explore playing in the FABULOUS Mentor-Mentee Programs! Each club offering is a little different...but the experience is the same: playing with a knowledgeable player, learning about stronger competition, getting to know the better players at the club. **These fun programs will improve your game!**

- Bridge Academy of West Houston
- Bridge Club of Houston
- Clear Lake Bridge Club
- Lone Star Bridge Club

### Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both Face-to-Face (F2F) and Online. The following information might be interesting:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Table Count</u>	<u>Number of Clubs in Unit 174</u>
2019	32,137.00	30
2020	30,401.00	28
2021	30,365.00	24
2022	20,451.00	24
2023	18,183.00	25

The ACBL website is still broken however, ACBL Executive Director, Bronia Jenkins was able to provide a tool that she is using to gather this information. The following numbers are the Unit 174 table counts from January 1 - November 26, 2024:

Total Tables:	15,514
Total F2F:	13,878
Total Online:	658
Total Swiss Teams:	973

The number of clubs in our unit dropped by one to 24. The top 15 club table counts are:

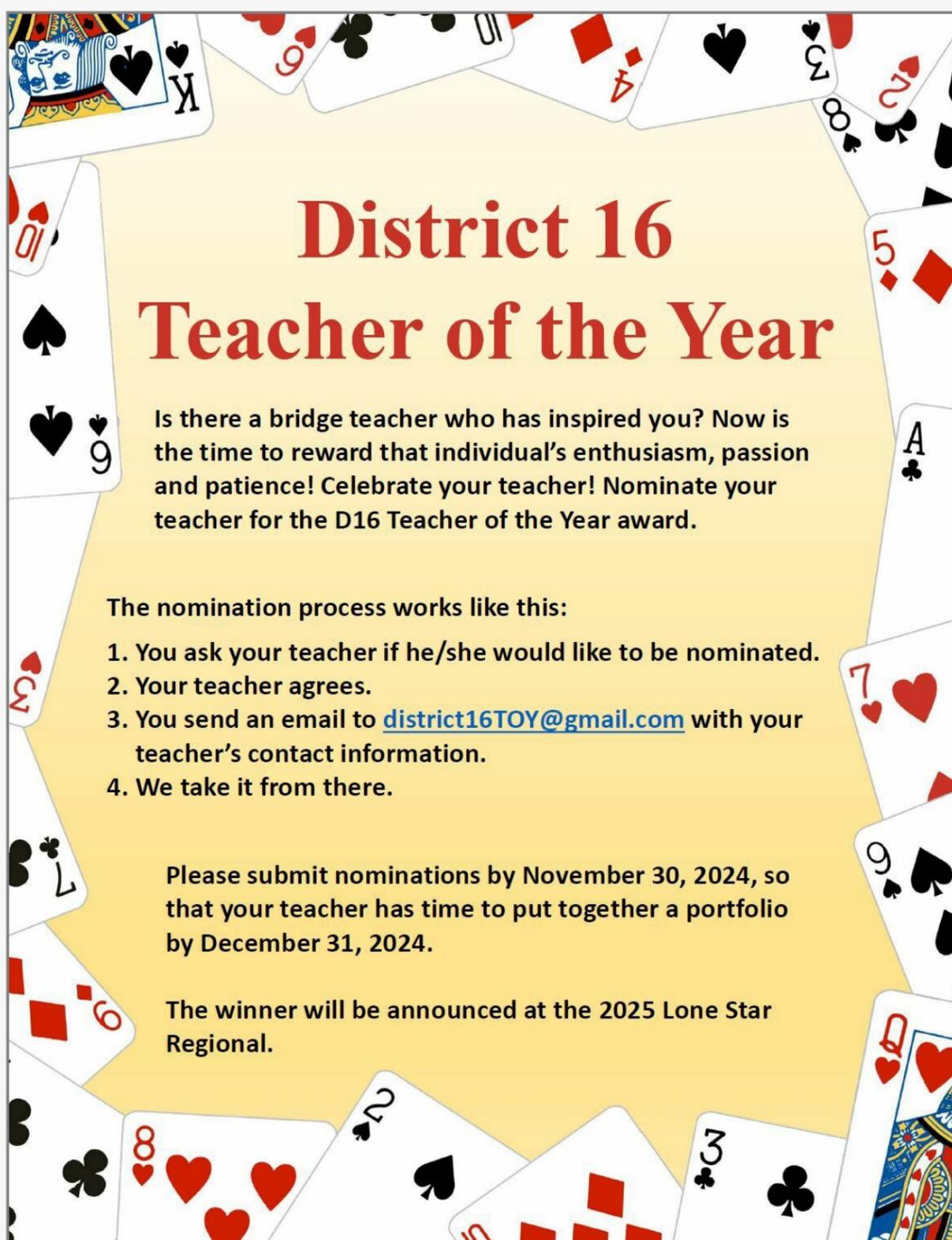
1. Clear Lake Bridge Club:	3,709 Tables, all F2F
2. Bridge Club of Houston:	2,350 Tables, 1,647.5 F2F, 554 Online
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston:	2,288 Tables, all F2F
4. Lone Star Bridge Club:	1,536 Tables, all F2F
5. Apple II DBC	775 Tables, all F2F
6. Star DBC	725 Tables, all F2F
7. Apple DBC	656 Tables, all F2F

8. Kingwood DBC	467 Tables, all F2F
9. Lake Conroe DBC	395 Tables, all F2F
10. Fort Bend DB	372 Tables, all F2F
11. Cypress Northwest DBC	325 Tables, all F2F
12. Sugarland Bridge Club	281 Tables, all F2F
13. Pebble Creek DBC	270 Tables, all F2F
14. Gulf Coast	177 Tables, all F2F
15. Houston Racquet Club	166 Tables, all F2F

One other bit of information, Unit 174's Clear Lake Bridge Club is still the District 16 leader for F2F tables followed by Bridge Center of Austin with 2,877 tables and Bridge Club of Houston with 2,350. So, now Unit 174 has two clubs in the top three for District 16.

Good News!

## D16 Teacher of the Year Nominations



# District 16 Teacher of the Year

Is there a bridge teacher who has inspired you? Now is the time to reward that individual's enthusiasm, passion and patience! Celebrate your teacher! Nominate your teacher for the D16 Teacher of the Year award.

**The nomination process works like this:**

1. You ask your teacher if he/she would like to be nominated.
2. Your teacher agrees.
3. You send an email to [district16TOY@gmail.com](mailto:district16TOY@gmail.com) with your teacher's contact information.
4. We take it from there.

Please submit nominations by November 30, 2024, so that your teacher has time to put together a portfolio by December 31, 2024.

The winner will be announced at the 2025 Lone Star Regional.



## Club News

Below please find the information reported by some of the clubs in

our unit. Please send your club news to: [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Additional information about all of the clubs can be found on the [Unit 174 website](#). Or, click a club name to jump to their website.

---

## Apple Clubs

Our games begin at 11:30 a.m. sharp at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr. 77042. Please plan to arrive by 11:15 a.m. All games are \$3.00 / person.

Apple DBC will have the following special games in December:

December 2 - Unit STaC

December 9 - Annual Membership Game and Holiday Potluck. Meats will be provided, players are asked to bring a side or dessert. *Anyone who brings a new toy for the Toys for Tots campaign will play for free.*

December 16 - Stardust Week

Wishing everyone **Happy Holidays**.

Susan Banks-Johnson

Apple II will be closed on the following dates:

December 13 - Tracey Gee is closed for Employee Training.

### **New Clubs' Policy:**

APPLE clubs (Susan and Brigitte) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less than 50 points.

*APPLE II **upped** the offer:* The normal game fee of \$3.00 / person will be *waived* if the pair has less than 100 MP's on average, so all of you FLMS should come on out on Friday and test your skill at *no cost*! In addition, any player who pairs up with someone under 100 points plays for *FREE*! Since many of our FLM's didn't take advantage of playing with a board member, the club is offering *FREE* plays to pairs that average less than 200 points! What a DEAL!

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson  
[sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) - 281-536-1451

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

Results and additional information [here](#).

Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are allowed. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You are welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.

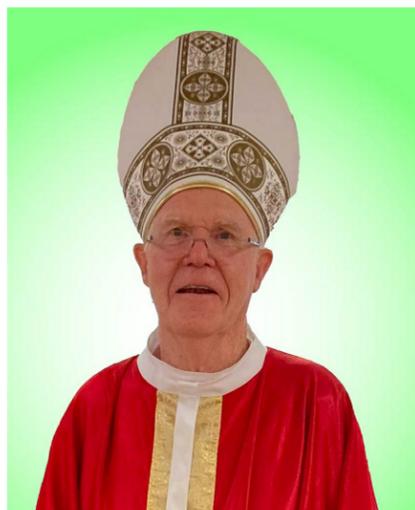


## Bridge Academy of West Houston

### **Pope Paul Nimmons wins Best Costume**

On Thursday, Oct 31st (**Trick or Treat**), Paul Nimmons won the Best Costume award for his impressive portrayal of Pope Paul.

We wonder if this will now enable him to be infallible when speaking about and playing bridge!



**Pope** Paul Nimmons



## Linda Drake - **Gold** Life Master Party

Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating Linda Drake's **Gold** Life Master achievement at her party on Wednesday, Nov 6th. Linda, known for her boundless enthusiasm, attracts a wide range of partners, which played a key role in helping her achieve the **Gold** Life Master milestone in record time.

## Betty Starzec - **Platinum** Life Master Party

**Betty Starzec** is well known for her impressive track record as a dedicated ACBL volunteer. After learning to play bridge, she advanced to teaching the game and later became an instructor for bridge teachers. She served on the



Unit 174 board, held the position of District 16 president, and received prestigious honors such as the Oswald Jacoby Service Award and the ACBL Goodwill Member of the Year.



On Wednesday, November 13th, a special celebration was held in honor of Betty Starzec's remarkable playing accomplishment. The occasion marked her attaining the prestigious **Platinum** Life Master rank, a milestone representing 10,000 masterpoints. Friends and bridge partners came together to congratulate Betty and join in celebrating this outstanding achievement.

Robbert Morris, Betty Starzec and Eddie Wold

### **Mentor/Mentee**

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. The next game will be on

*December 3rd - Mentor/Mentee*

If you have not signed up and would like to participate please contact our coordinator Bert Onstott by clicking [here](#).

Mentees must have fewer than 300 masterpoints and Mentors greater than 300 points.

### **Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Teams**

Our Future Life Masters (FLM) and 8 is enough Swiss Teams games are held monthly on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The next games will be held on

*December 15th - FLM & 8 is enough Swiss Teams*

The Swiss Teams stratifications are:

**Level 1** - 0-1000 masterpoints (1)

**Level 2** - 1000-3000 masterpoints (2)

**Level 3** - 3000+ masterpoints (3)

For example one Level 3, two Level 2 and one Level 1 players total 8 as would four Level 2 players. Another example would be three Level 2 and one Level 1 players whose team total is 7 and it is OK to be less than 8.

The Swiss Teams has become an extremely popular event. For help finding teammates contact:

Linda McReynolds @ (713) 819-7812 [lindamcreynolds@comcast.net](mailto:lindamcreynolds@comcast.net)

### Mini-lesson

Before each Wednesday game there is a mini-lesson beginning around 10:00 a.m. taught by Joe Quinn.

### Game Schedule

**Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee**  
**Wednesday - Open & 299'er**  
**Thursdays - Invitational**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday - Future Life Masters & Swiss Teams**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**Arabia Shriners Center**  
**10510 Harwin Dr.**

- \$7.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Jennifer Breihan, Janice Hardcastle Rush and Tom Jahnke directors

### Game Calendar

Tue – Dec 3	STaC	Sun – Dec 15	Charity Game
Wed – Dec 4	STaC	Wed – Dec 18	Stardust
Thu – Dec 5	STaC	Thu – Dec 19	Stardust
Wed – Dec 11	Charity Game	Thu – Dec 26	Club Membership
Thu – Dec 12	Charity Game		

### Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 [martinsens@comcast.net](mailto:martinsens@comcast.net).



## Bridge Club of Houston

Please consult our monthly calendar online: [BCOH Calendar](#).

**BCOH: Online Choose Houston** - Thursday 7:00 p.m.

**BBO - Mentor/Mentee Games:** First and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: [minkins@swbell.net](mailto:minkins@swbell.net).

**BCOH Open Games** (Face-2-Face):  
Monday: 11:55 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.

Saturday F2F 299er and Open games - check BCOH [website](#) for details, potlucks and points each week.

### SAVE THE DATES:

8 is Enough Swiss Teams - December 17 at 10:30 a.m. (Register at the club.)

**Mentor/Mentee F2F:** December 10 at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at [judy\\_n\\_al@yahoo.com](mailto:judy_n_al@yahoo.com) by phone 713-320-5592 or Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928. Also contact them with any questions.

## TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson from 9:30-10:10 a.m. Game follows beginning at 10:30 a.m. We will set up partnerships for those who need it. Text Julie at 713-857-8004 with questions or concerns. **Lessons are open to all.**

December 14 - **Holiday Potluck** Celebration: Bring a favorite dish to share. Lunch is at 11:15 a.m. and the 299er/Open Games begin at noon.

December 16-21 - Stardust Week 25% **GOLD** and 75% Black Points

December 24-25 - Club closed for **Christmas**

December 31 - 0-999 Game at 10:30 a.m. - Extra points will be awarded.

January 1 - Ring in the **New Year!** Please bring a snack or finger food to share.

---

## CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE - BBO ONLINE GAMES

Online Games for all levels every day! These dates will change if the ACBL has approved special games online so please check the Bridge Club of Houston and Clear Lake Bridge Club for updates.

### **Mentored Pairs**

1st & 3rd Monday @ 7:00 PM

### **Open Pairs**

Thursday @ 7:00 PM

### **Future Life Masters**

Tuesday (0-50) @ 3:05 PM\*

2nd Saturday (0-20) @ 9:00 AM\*

\*usually - see [flm174.org](http://flm174.org) for dates

### **SE Carolina Consortium**

<https://sites.google.com/view/se-club-of-clubs/home>



## Clear Lake Bridge Club

Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC) is located at 16614 Sear Lark, Houston, Texas 77062.

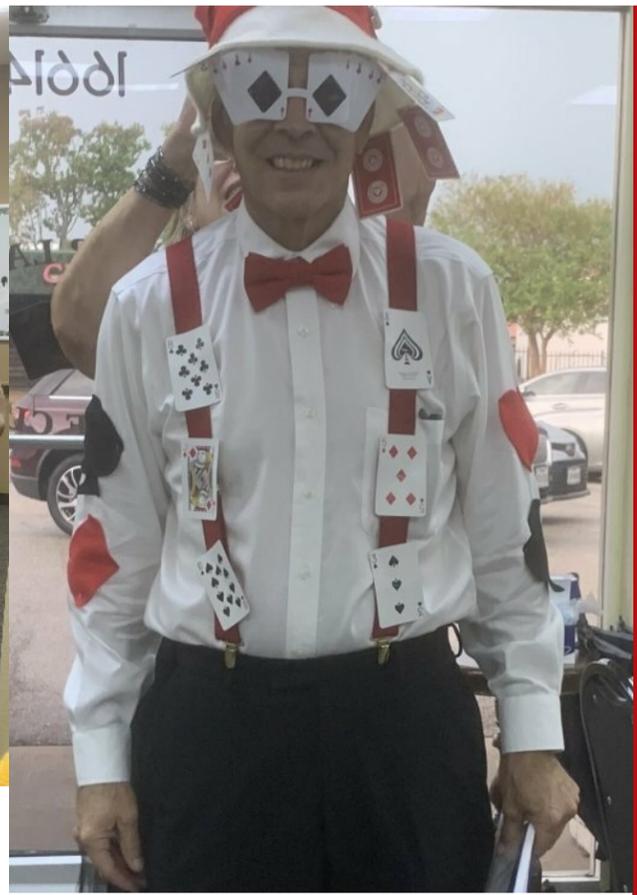
Games are held every day of the week. The club closes for Unit 174 tournaments, Christmas and Easter. You can reach us by phone at 281-480-1911.

### **PREVIOUSLY...**

On October 30, the club hosted its annual **Halloween Party and Costume Contest**. Some of the motley crew are captured below.



Limited Edition  
Millie Perner



Alan Schaefer



The Motley Crew

November Mentor/Mentee (M/M) Game

Congratulations to the November Mentor/Mentee Winners:

# Mentor Mentee Winners!



Overall Winners

Bill Churchman & Mentee Mike Hanna



N/S Winners

Dana Brown & Mentee Judie Ferguson

11/2024

## UPCOMING . . .

December 2-8: STaC Games  
December 9-15: Club Championship Games  
December 16-22: Stardust Games. 25% **Gold** points.  
December 23-29: Jr. Fund Games

The **Holiday Party** will be held on December 18 between the morning open game and the Mentor/Mentee game. Member are asked to wear their **UGLY** Christmas sweaters.

### Time for your Annual Dues:

Steve Lowenkron will be at the club December 1-7 collecting the 2025 dues of \$25.00. If you cannot give your dues to Steve, please give them to either Sherry Scoggins or Mark Incerto anytime through December. Directors will no longer accept dues payments. Remember if you want to be listed in the 2025 Directory, your dues must be current.

### Partnership/Team Building:

Chuck Ensor will assist anyone to get a team organized for any of the Sunday Swiss Teams games. You can either call Chuck at 713-502-0282 or [email](#) him.

### Weekly Game Schedule:

Open Games: Monday - Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 a.m., Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m.  
0-299 Games: Monday and Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.  
0-749 Games: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 p.m.  
Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m. September 8th is 8 is Enough. The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. We ask that anyone interested in playing in any of the Sunday afternoon Team Games to please register before you come so that the director can have the set up done on time.

*Please arrive no later than 15 minutes before the game start times.*

Game table fee is \$6.00 for members, \$7.00 for guests.

### Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):

Sunday and Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Check out [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education) for new classes offered in 2024.

Bobbie Moutz  
Vice President  
[natcolemmed@comcast.net](mailto:natcolemmed@comcast.net)

P.S.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).



## CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC & KATY 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 11:30 a.m., with sign-up beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Games are \$3.

**Katy DBC** meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:00 a.m., and the game begins at 11:30 a.m. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Regular games are \$3.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com).

**CLUB OWNER RETIRING - BRIDGE CLUBS FOR SALE**

Cypress Northwest DBC  
Meets Tuesday and Thursday at Weekley Community Center

Katy DBC  
Meets Wednesday at Radack Community Center

Will sell both or separately.  
If interested please contact  
Jim Warren  
832-851-4745  
[jwarren7602gmail.com](mailto:jwarren7602gmail.com)



## Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club

### Open Games Tuesday

Arabia Shriners Center  
10510 Harwin Dr.  
Houston, TX 77036

Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. Games starts at 10:30 a.m.

### LET'S MAKE BRIDGE FUN AGAIN

- We are in the Prairie Room every Tuesday. Not the Oasis Room.
- We use Bridge Mate II Bridge pads.
- We do not use slippery plastic cards.
- Most games are upgraded.
- Hand records are available after every game.
- Our players are a nice balance of friendly A, B and C players.
- Coffee and substantive snacks are provided.
- All games are fully sanctioned by the ACBL.
- Results are available immediately.
- Our directors are gentle, fair and experienced.
- All games including upgraded are \$7.00.

**CALLING AHEAD WILL FACILITATE STARTING GAMES ON TIME.**

### CONTACT:

John Eric Watson  
[ewat2004@aol.com](mailto:ewat2004@aol.com)  
832 287 9107



## KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

### Games:

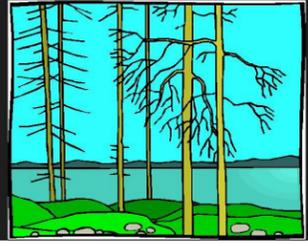
Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

On Thursday mornings, Bill Riley will be giving a short 20-30 minute presentation on various topics, conventions, etc., starting at 9:20 a.m. A schedule of topics will be published shortly. Coffee is available.

On Thursday, October 24th and 31st, the game will not be held due to early voting.

However, the games will be held on Wednesday.

For information, contact any of the following:  
Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or [jrsimmons2102@gmail.com](mailto:jrsimmons2102@gmail.com).  
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or [ichibanbill@yahoo.com](mailto:ichibanbill@yahoo.com).  
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570  
Or Visit our [website](#).



## LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

**D e c e m b e r 2 0 2 4**

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so players new to duplicate will feel comfortable; and seasoned players will find a challenge. We would like to invite you and your bridge friends to join us every Friday.

We begin playing at 10:30 a.m. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea. Please bring your lunch as we have microwaves for heating and refrigerators for keeping your food cold.

Our games for the month of December are played in the Fellowship Room at April Sound Church, located at [67 1/2 April Wind Dr. S](#), Montgomery. There is easy access from Hwy 105 into the church parking lot.

***As of January 2025, our permanent location will change.***

Beginning Friday, January 3 our game will be played at the Restoration Church at [107 Fish Creek Thoroughfare](#), Montgomery. This is a very big change for our club. As most of you know, we have enjoyed the location of the April Sound Church for decades. We look forward to seeing everyone at this new location starting in 2025!

Our annual **Holiday Party** will be at the April Sound Country Club as usual. Please confirm your reservation with Jean Jardine if you haven't already signed up!

If you need a partner, please contact Carol Meade at 281-543-4541 or email her at [meadecm@icloud.com](mailto:meadecm@icloud.com).

The following is what's happening in December:

- December 6 - District STaC
- December 13 - **Annual Holiday Party** - Educational Foundation Game
- December 20 - Club Championship
- December 27 - TBD

We welcome you to join us on Friday's at LCDBC and look forward to seeing all of you at the table.

Please contact me either by phone or email if you have any questions regarding playing at our Club.

Penny Grassedonio  
Club Manager  
832-361-4577  
[czthdaypjg@gmail.com](mailto:czthdaypjg@gmail.com)  
[website](#)



## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) in Conroe, Texas, plays at St Paul Global Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Drive, Conroe; the church is located within easy access from Interstate 45. Directions to our game may be found on our [website](#).

We provide coffee, bottled water, and only individually wrapped snacks.

Our games are **always** \$5.00.

#### December Calendar of Events

Monday, December 2 – District 16 (D16) STaC Game & Free bridge lesson with Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll at 11:00 a.m. Game begins at 11:45 a.m. Jeff's class includes:

- Modified OGUST as taught by Larry Cohen
- Active Defense
- Passive Defense

December babies will also be celebrated with cake!

Tuesday, December 3 – D16 STaC Game beginning at 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday, December 5 – D16 STaC Game beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 9 – Club Championship Game.  
Thursday, December 12 – Club Championship Game & Free pizza for lunch!

Monday, December 16, Tuesday, December 17 & Thursday, December 19 – STARDUST Games.

Monday, December 23 – Local Charity Game for St. Paul Church & **Christmas Party**. Advanced signup is required. The Club will provide ham. Please bring sides and desserts. Food will be served at 11:00 a.m and game will follow.

Tuesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 26 – **Merry Christmas** - club closed.

Monday, December 30 – ACBL Charity Game

Thursday January 2, 2025 – We will be open celebrating the new year. Welcome and Happy New Year to all! Bring your leftover desserts to share.

If you would like to be added to the email list for our weekly newsletter to keep up with our club news as well as a weekly lesson from DLM Jeff Kroll, please contact Linda Sutton at: [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com) or 936-443-3600.

For more information, contact Linda Sutton, Club Manager at [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com).

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#).



## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. For further information, please contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or [richard.duble@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).



## STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and **are** \$5.00 per person.

You must have a partner.

For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421



## Contributors



### Exclusion Blackwood

BY JOE QUINN

While Blackwood as well as Roman Key Card Blackwood are excellent conventions, they are inadequate if the person wishing to ask for key cards has a void. Partner might have the ace of the suit where you have the void and you are missing a key card in a suit where you have losers.

Fortunately, there is a tool available on some hands to ask for key cards outside your void suit. It is a jump to the five level in the suit in which you are void which asks for key cards outside of this suit. Care must be taken to not jump in a suit which could confuse partner. In general, a clear fit must have been established (normally in a major) before Exclusion Blackwood (Exclusion) would apply.

The responses to Exclusion should follow the agreed protocol that your partnership uses for regular blackwood. For example, if you use 0314 the first step shows 0 or 3 keycards, the second step shows 1 or 4 keycards, etc.

After the initial response to Exclusion, bids of the cheapest new suit when bidding room allows asks for the trump queen while the next suit above that asks for specific kings up the line and promise all the relevant key cards and the trump queen. Care must be taken if the response takes you above six of the agreed trump suit.

You also must be careful not to overuse Exclusion. For example, do not use this convention if there is a danger that a side suit could have two quick losers.

See the following examples of auctions where Exclusion would apply:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1♥	2NT
3♦	5♣

2NT Is a forcing raise showing four hearts and 13+ points.  
3♦ Shows a singleton or void in diamonds.  
5♣ Is Exclusion, asking for key cards outside of the club suit.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1♥	2NT
3♦	3♠
5♦	

2NT Is a forcing raise showing four hearts and 13+ points.  
3♦ Shows a singleton or void in diamonds.  
3♠ Shows a spade control (♠A or ♠K).  
5♦ Is Exclusion, asking for key cards outside of the diamond suit.

Let's look at a few more examples where Exclusion applies.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1♥	2♣
2♥	3♥
5♦	

2♣ Created a game force if you play the 2/1 system and is nominally natural.  
3♥ Shows three card heart support (with 4+ card support use 2NT).  
5♦ Is Exclusion, asking for key cards outside of the diamond suit.

Please note that Exclusion only applies when there is a *jump* to the 5 level after agreement of the major trump suit, otherwise it is a control-showing bid.

There are a couple of cases when Exclusion applies without a jump to the 5 level. The first exception is when 1NT or 2NT is opened and responder transfers opener to a major at the 4 level (Texas Transfer). New suits by responder after this start would be Exclusion as shown below:

Opener	Responder
1NT	4♦
4♥	5♣

4♦ Is a Texas transfer to hearts showing six cards.

4♥ Opener takes the transfer to hearts.

5♣ Is Exclusion, asking for key cards outside of the club suit.

A suitable hand would be something like this:

♠KJ10 ♥AQ10982 ♦KQ84 ♣---

The second exception is after agreement on a minor trump suit.

Opener	Responder
1♦	2♦
4♠	

2♦ Is an inverted minor showing at least five diamonds and a limit or limit+ raise and no four card major.

4♠ Is Exclusion, asking for key cards outside of the spade suit. Note, with 6-5 distribution, Opener should bid 2♠ followed by 3♠ later. This is a rare case where Exclusion would apply with a jump to the 4 level.

Each partnership should also agree on responses in case the Exclusion asking bid is doubled which often occurs (i.e. DOP1, ROP1, etc).

Summary:

Exclusion is a powerful tool when used properly and within limits that each partner understands. It doesn't come up that often but is very useful when it does. *P.S.* Exclusion and responses to it are not alertable at the time of the bid but are delayed alerts requiring the declaring side to explain their bids after the auction is ended and before the opening lead.

---

Joe Quinn has been playing bridge since graduating college in 1972 with a degree in Chemical Engineering and an MBA. His career took him all over the world working as a project director with Fluor. Joe spent 16 years working overseas mostly in Europe (UK, Denmark, Poland and Switzerland) with a couple of years in Saudi Arabia. The rest of his career was divided between Texas and California. He went to part time employment in 2020 and with his extra time he started teaching bridge part time. Joe enjoys teaching bridge especially seeing the enthusiasm of his students.

Joe is a Grand Life Master with two national championships and numerous high placings in other national championships. His favorite bridge partner is his wife, Shawn, who has won several world championships and over 20 national championships. They don't get to play together as much now as they have a twelve-year-old daughter with whom they enjoy spending time.



## In Memoriam.

- \* Mildred Boyce Breed, Spring
- \* Max Levit, Houston
- \* Hans Franz Strohmer, Houston

\*Life Master

---



## Mildred Boyce Breed 1947 | 2024

Mildred Boyce Breed passed away on November 14 in Spring at the age of 77. She was born on May 19, 1947 in Austin to James ("Bud") Boyce and LaVerne Stromquist Boyce. She had three brothers, Curtis, Jim, and Dennis, and was thus affectionately known by all as "Sister." She is survived by her daughter Monica Snideman, son-in-law, Warren Snideman and granddaughters Cara (Nick), Madison, Maya, Macy and Molly, and daughter Rhiannon Breed, and grandsons Nathen, Luke, Dunk, and Avery.

Mildred lived in Austin for most of her life, graduating from Stephen F. Austin High School and attending the University of Texas in Austin for a time before focusing on raising her daughters and honing her skills at the card table, in preparation for her illustrious career as a world class professional bridge player. In her early years, she worked as a purchasing agent for her family's steel business Boyce Iron Works and as a bartender at The Depot. She loved motorcycle riding and water skiing in the lakes of Austin with her family. She had an incredibly extensive Christmas collection of Santas and snow houses, which she would proudly display every year, bringing Christmas magic to life on every available surface throughout her house.

Mildred's passion for bridge began as a teenager as a means of getting out of babysitting her younger brother, Dennis, and progressed into her becoming a Grand Life Master and bridge royalty. Her bridge career took her around the world for national and international competitions. Nationally, Mildred amassed 17 NABC titles, and on the international stage, she was a two-time world champion who was ranked as high as 3rd in the World Bridge Federation. One of her most impressive feats was winning the Smith Life Master Women's Pairs four years in a row with her long-time partner, Shawn Quinn.

Mildred was the life of the party, with razor sharp wit and intellect. She adored her grandchildren, helping drive them to and from school for several years and cherishing the time she could spend with them. She attended all of their performances and sporting events, and loved taking them out to eat, always saying "You pick, I pay!" She was known by all for her quips and retorts. When asked how she was doing, she would always respond "If I was any better, I'd have to be twins! And those who know me say 'Please don't get any better! One's enough!'"

A Celebration of Life and reception will be held for Mildred on Saturday, January 4th at 4:00 at the Stone Chapel and the Lamb & Scroll in the English Village at the Lanier Theological Library property, located at 14130 Hargrave Rd., Houston, Texas 77070.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Association.



## Max Levit 1934 | 2024

Work Hard, Be Nice, Have Fun. These were words that Max Levit often repeated and always lived by.

Max Stanley Levit was born to Joe and Dora Levit on December 22, 1934. The youngest of three brothers, he lived on South McGregor and graduated from San Jacinto High School. Moving on to the University of Texas, Max was president of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and was honored to be a member of the prestigious Texas Cowboy service organization. He also served as head of the committee to select the Cowboy Sweethearts, a role for which he was uniquely qualified.

Upon graduation from UT Max went into the Navy, serving as a supply officer on the aircraft carrier USS Hornet. After a 2-year tour in the South Pacific, a time that Max remembered fondly, he returned to Houston to work for the

family business, The Grocers Supply Company. Started by his parents, Joe and Dora, in 1923, Max and his brothers, Milton and George, built Grocers Supply into the largest independently owned wholesaler of grocery products in the Southeastern US and the largest supplier of Hispanic grocery products in the country. Max was extremely proud of Grocers Supply and loved being a part of operations, negotiations and management. He truly embodied the company's philosophy of honesty, integrity and doing business on a handshake.

In 1961 Max met and married Rochelle Lynn Hoffman and soon after started a family. They had three children, Tracy, Clay, and Cindy. Max was an extremely loving and involved father, taking the kids out for special Sunday breakfasts, coaching little league, and going on family vacations. He was rarely in a bad mood, perhaps because of his devotion to exercise, which was a daily part of his life. After work each day when the kids were little, he would go visit his mother then come home and go for a run. In later years he frequented The Houstonian in his famous James Coney Island hot dog shirt, where friends joked that he was "the mayor" because of the amount of time he spent chatting with the other members compared to the time he spent exercising.

Philanthropy was a priority to Max, as is evident by the number of Houston institutions, including Stages Theater, MD Anderson, Memorial Park Conservancy, and Beth Israel Synagogue, that have a wing, feature, or building bearing his name. He was also generous with his time and talent, serving on many boards including the Houston Food Bank, Texas Heart Institute, MD Anderson and UT Health Houston, where he served as president. In 1996, along with his best friend, Morrie Abramson, Max received the Torch of Liberty Award, bestowed by the Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League.

When the Levit family sold Grocers Supply in 2014, Max became president of 2ML Real Estate Interests, an offshoot of Grocers Supply. The 2ML project that Max was most proud of was Levit Green, a 52-acre mixed-use project adjacent to the Texas Medical Center that sits at the epicenter of Houston's biotech, corporate life sciences and medical research hub.

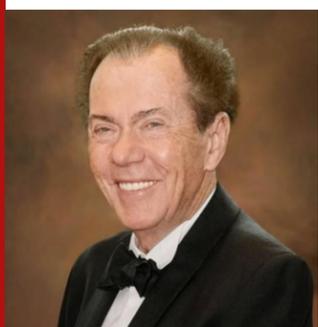
Max loved his work and loved his family, but he really loved to have fun. Bridge was a huge part of Max's life. He learned to play from Papa Joe, his father, who said it was the most fun you could have with your clothes on. Max played in Houston for decades and became a Sapphire Life Master. It was through the love of bridge that Max met his wife Lynne, who was his beloved partner in the last years of his life. They brought each other so much joy and spent the too-short time they had together enjoying cruises, world travel, meals out with friends, and a whole lot of laughing. Lynne's large family embraced Max, and he was honored to consider himself a part of their tribe.

Max died peacefully at home with Lynne at his side holding his hand. He will be deeply missed. He is survived by his wife Lynne, his children and grandchildren: Tracy and Glen Lerner and Maddox; Clay and Katy Levit, Rose, Nate Aune, and Saoirse; and Cindy Levit, Ryan and Ian; as well as Lynne's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Lisa and Charles Williams, Bailey, Emma Horwitz, Megan, Charlie, Ryan, Peter and Patrick; Patrick and Charlotte Beathard, Julianna and Lee Siratt, Bear and Rosie, Drew, Beau, Zachary and Tess; Trey and Angela Beathard, Bob, Bennett and Beck; and Tiffany and Charles Masterson, Chloe, Lili, Mia and William. He was predeceased by his wife Rochelle and his brothers Milton and George.

All of us will remember to work hard, be nice and have fun - and don't be a horse's ass, as Max was fond of adding. And all of us will remember Max with love in our hearts. May his memory be a blessing.

A memorial service was held at Congregation Beth Israel in October. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to The Houston Holocaust Museum or Congregation Beth Israel.

Lynne is hoping all Unit 174 and District 16 duplicate bridge players will further celebrate Max and have fun at the 2025 Max Levit Lone Star Regional in Houston on February 3-9.



**Hans Franz Strohmer 1942 | 2024**

Hans Franz Strohmer, a consummate gentleman, devoted husband, and

distinguished hotelier, passed away on Thursday, the 17th of October in Houston. He was 82 years of age. Born on the 30th of July 1942, in Vienna, Austria, to Johann and Maria (Harrer) Strohmer. Hans' early life was shaped by the profound challenges of World War II. His father, a resistance leader in Vienna, was tragically killed en route to Mauthausen Concentration Camp, where his aunt also perished.

Despite the hardships of his early years, Hans grew into a man of quiet strength, resilience, and deep resolve. Following Austria's declaration of neutrality in 1955, he served in the Austrian military's tank division. At just sixteen, Hans left for Switzerland to pursue higher education. He attended the prestigious Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne, where he earned a degree in Hotel Administration, furthering his studies at the Culinary Institute of Vienna. Remarkably, Hans entered this French-speaking university fluent only in German, but within three months, his determination led him to master French. In time, he also became fluent in English, which he saw as his "passport to success" in the global hospitality industry. He earned the designation of Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA), solidifying his expertise in the field.

Hans' illustrious career took him around the world, beginning in Winnipeg, Canada, and, together with his former wife Wendy, to Bermuda, Boston—where their son Peter was born, Philadelphia, Houston—where their son Michael was born, and eventually to Arlington, Texas.

After returning to Houston in 1994, Hans met the love of his life, Nancy, in 1995, and they were married in 1997. He often said that meeting Nancy was the greatest blessing of his life. Shortly after, he became Regional Vice President for Marriott, based in San Antonio. In 1999, Hans joined Nancy in her manufacturing business, working alongside her until its sale in 2001. Together, they shared a deep love for travel, exploring all seven continents, as well as a mutual passion for classical music, hiking, duplicate bridge and cherishing their time together.

Hans held prominent leadership roles with renowned hotel chains including Marriott, Omni, Hyatt, Sheraton, Sonesta, and Dunfey Hotels. A pinnacle of his distinguished career was being named Omni's Manager of the Year, a testament to his dedication and expertise in the hospitality industry.

In 1983, Hans proudly became a U.S. citizen, frequently saying with pride that he "came to Texas as soon as he could." Hans was also an active community leader, serving as president of the Greater San Antonio Hotel and Motel Association, as well as contributing to the Executive Club of Houston, Rotary Club, San Antonio Library Foundation Board, Houston Symphony Board, and Skat Club International.

Hans is survived by his loving wife, Nancy Strohmer; children, Michael Strohmer and his wife Lachelle, Shelley Cooper and her husband Roger, Ray M. Stopper, daughter-in-law, Marji Strohmer; sister, Sissy Wanek; his precious grandchildren, Raymond J. Stopper, Mariah Stopper and her fiancé Ryan, Jayce Strohmer, Gracyn Strohmer, Kendyll Strohmer, Max Strohmer, Brody Cooper, Bryce Cooper, Brett Cooper and his wife Wisty, Becky Foland and her husband Craig; niece, Muna Saied-Reuning; great-niece, Samira Saied; and great-nephew, Laurin Saied.

Hans is preceded in death by his parents, Maria (Strohmer) Schall, and Johann Strohmer; son, Peter Strohmer; sister, Helga Saied; brother-in-law, Hamid Saied; and nephew, Farid Saied.

Hans will be deeply missed by his loving family, close friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

A celebration of life was held in Houston on November 4. In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions in his memory may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association.



## From the Editor



I'm a new Text block ready for your content.

Thank you to all of the people who contribute to the

Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy.

*If you are interested in volunteering for Unit 174 events and activities, please contact Sarah Springer, Unit 174 Board President - [sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com).*

If you would like to have your club information or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment for which you are proud and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and subject title to [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Evvie Gilbert  
Editor  
[unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com)

