

# bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

June 1, 2019

## Message from the President

To our new members: welcome! May you have many inspiring and happy moments at the bridge table.

To our "seasoned" members: greetings. I hope you'll go out of your way to make any new bridge players you meet feel welcome at the bridge table.

I just spent an afternoon kibbitzing a beginner bridge class in Rhode Island, and I was quite charmed and delighted with the enthusiasm of these new players. I learned things from them, and I was astonished to witness the level of bridge playing from several people who started just a couple of months ago. It gives me a refreshing feeling for the appeal of the game - how it can be almost "addictive" just as soon as you start playing.

I encourage our experienced players to drop by a class once in a while or sit in on a table of 299'ers. You might give someone a good tip, or just make them feel more comfortable playing in a competitive setting. After all, and I'll try to say this gently, ... we need more bridge players!

Along this line I'll also encourage everyone reading this to take a look at two events going on over the summer. On Sunday, July 14, the Rhode Island Bridge Association is sponsoring a "Best Partner Ever" Mentor Game at the Warwick Bridge Club, where newer players will be paired with an experienced partner, and will have a chance to discuss their bidding and play throughout the session. There's a flyer in this newsletter (and at the clubs) with more information, and to sign up as either a "mentee" or "mentor," you can email me at [marshallwilliams@me.com](mailto:marshallwilliams@me.com).

Later in the summer at the Ocean State Regional in Warwick, there will be a Pro-Am Game on Saturday night, Aug. 31, again where a newer player (under 500 masterpoints) pairs up with a "pro" (anyone over 500 MPs). For both games, you can register as a pair, or sign up as a "single" and we'll find you an appropriate partner. The July 14 event might be a great way to get ready for the Pro-Am event at the Regional. Again, a flyer is attached.

I hope we're doing our best to make new bridge players feel welcome and excited about coming to the clubs and the tournaments here in Rhode Island. This is a vibrant and wonderful community, and I hope it will provide lots of players with a great bridge game for years to come.

*Marshall Williams*  
2019 President, RI Bridge Association

## bRidge Bits is YOUR newsletter

Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. This newsletter is for the Rhode Island bridge community, and we'd like to make the newsletter as community-oriented as we can. Any member of RIBA is welcome to submit a photo of themselves or another member with a short note of tribute - whether it is to mark a new life master ranking, a significant birthday, in memoriam, etc. We will be glad to publish these photos as a community service. Back issues at [RIBridge.org](http://RIBridge.org) (click on news).

### 70%+ Games

70%+ Open Pairs games March 1 - May 25, 2019,  
at least 5 tables, at least 20 boards in play

#### *Bridge Club of Northern Rhode Island*

- Emily Gardner & Clayton Cox, March 11, 71.74%
- Fred Rogler & Joe Russo, March 18, 71.35%
- Phyllis Chase & Philip Lam, April 23, 70.54%
- Walter Morgan & William Morgan, April 26, 72.81% (Fri)
- Vivian Malloy & Clint Wright, May 17, 70.52%

#### *Narragansett Bridge Club*

- Mario Briccetti & J. Michael Shaughnessy, April 8, 70.00%
- Jean Lieberman & Joan O'Connell, May 15, 74.39%

#### *Viking Bridge Club*

- Neil Toback & Frances Caban, March 6, 75.83%
- Bill Niemi & Timothy Yentsch, March 11, 72.62%

#### *Warwick Bridge Club*

- Catherine Branch & Bob Fish, April 13, 70.00%

## Bonus for Bakers

We get many compliments on the wonderful food that is served at our tournaments. Bring something you've made to the next Johnston tournament. Baked goods are always a favorite, bonus: you'll get a discount on your entry fee!

## RI Bridge Assn. Summer Sectional

**June 8 & 9, 2019**

**Win EXTRA Silver Points on Saturday**

*FREE Lesson by Barton Buffington at 9:00 Sat.*

**Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue  
(Route 6A), Johnston, RI**

**[www.RIBridge.org](http://www.RIBridge.org)**

## RIBA Officers

President: Marshall Williams  
Vice-President: Meg Gousie  
Secretary: Linda Ahrens  
Treasurer: Joseph Brouillard

## Board of Directors

Linda Ahrens  
Joseph Brouillard  
Barton Buffington  
Charleen Christy  
Lois DeBlois  
Megan DiOrio  
Maureen Fahey  
Julie Goulet  
Meg Gousie  
Diane Lambert  
Paula Najarian  
David Prentiss  
Don Rankin  
Chris Soares  
Marshall Williams  
Stanley Williams

## Membership Report

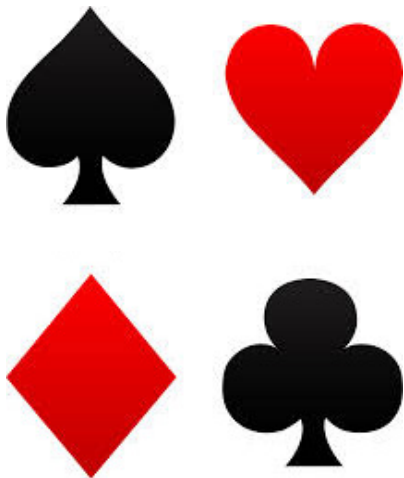
Greetings! The Rhode Island Bridge Association extends a hearty welcome to all new members and to all members who recently transferred into our unit! Be sure to check your e-mail for regular mailings from RIBA. The clubs in RI are known for friendliness and sociability and we are confident that you will find bridge games relaxing and mentally stimulating.

### New Members

Ayse Gokaslan	Barrington
Stephen Schwetch	Providence
Thomas McCay	Saunderstown

## Upcoming Events

June 8-9 Sectional, Johnston, RI  
Sept 21-22 Sectional, Johnston, RI  
Oct 19 RIBA Gala, Johnston, RI  
July 20-30 NABC - Providence, RI (2021)



## Newest Rank Achievements

Congratulations to the following members on their rank advancements!

### Sapphire Life Master (3500 MP's)

Sandie Campbell, Bristol

### Bronze Life Master\*

William Everett, Providence

### NABC Master (200 MP's)

Sandy Stamoulis, Barrington

### Regional Master (100 MP's)

Nadine Harris, Newport

### Sectional Masters (50 MP's)

Arthur Norman, Providence

Mario Briccetti, Kingston

### Club Master (20 MP's)

John Dinapoli, Middletown

Paul Thompson, North Kingstown

### Junior Master (5 MP's)

Susan Degrave, N Smithfield

William Ballou, Westerly

Lisa Churchville, Narragansett

(as of 5/1/2019)

\*500 MP's if a player joined ACBL before 1/1/2010; 750 if a player joined after that

## In Memoriam

Many of us were saddened to learn of the death of Bill Cowdell of Cumberland at the age of 83, and we send our best wishes to his wife Agnes. I had the pleasure of partnering with Bill just once, at a BridgeWorks game some years ago, but of course I met him many times at the bridge table, and he was the epitome of grace - cheerful, kind to his partner, happy to see his opponents, and an excellent player. I will miss him and I know that many others will too. —Marshall Williams

## Serve on our Unit Board!

The RI Bridge Association is seeking one or more volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors.

Any member of Unit 145 is invited to join our board. Volunteers help out with Sectionals (four times a year in Johnston) and the October Gala, write articles for this bRidge Bits newsletter, and help promote the game of bridge around our Ocean State.

In two years we'll be providing support when the NABC (Nationals) comes back to Providence, and you can be a special ambassador for Rhode Island.

Our board meetings are held four times a year on Saturdays at 10:45 AM and presently are held at the Warwick Bridge Club. If you are interested in joining or you have questions about serving on the board, contact a current board member or e-mail najarianp@verizon.net.

*Rhode Island Bridge Association*

# **“Best Partner Ever” Game**

***Sunday, July 14, 2019, 1 - 5 p.m.***

**Warwick Bridge Club  
Buttonwoods Plaza  
Warwick, RI**

This is a sanctioned RIBA Unit Mentor Game with masterpoints. Sign up as a “Mentor” (willing to be a teaching and guiding partner to a newer player), or as a “Mentee” (wishing to learn more about the game of bridge, rules of play, types of games, anything you are curious about).

**Admission \$5, free pizza and soda after the game**

*Free admission for anyone with fewer than 10 masterpoints.*

Registration required: email Marshall Williams at **marshallwilliams@me.com** or call **401-749-2009**

Send your name, number of masterpoints, contact information, and whether you are coming as a “Mentee” or “Mentor.”

## Learning Better Bridge

This year the Rhode Island Bridge Association is committing itself to attracting new duplicate bridge players around the state, and helping to promote teaching efforts and new player events by clubs. All of the bridge clubs in Rhode Island offer various kinds of instruction. If you're a bridge player and you know anyone who might be interested in learning bridge or trying a duplicate game, you can steer them to any of the clubs and club directors.

Clint Wright, director of the Bridge Club of Northern Rhode Island, has been offering a non-sanctioned instructional game on Friday evenings for six years now, with consistent attendance by interested bridge players. A number of people now playing duplicate at Rhode Island clubs began with this hands-on-the-cards experience.

The first half hour of each session is devoted to a brief review of selected hands, the introduction of a new convention, and general bridge questions to get people started. Then, everyone, novice and up, plays bridge with a teaching supervisor. Any player is allowed to ask any question about the bidding, play of the hand, or defense, during this time.

"For new players, this really helps develop their confidence," says Clint Wright, "and it de-mystifies the game in a non-threatening environment. It has the benefit of improving the play of beginner to intermediate players, and in some cases we've found that it drives new players to the sanctioned day games."

The non-sanctioned game is held at Slatersville Congregational Church, 25 Greene St., North Smithfield, on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Clint Wright at [cwright1717@gmail.com](mailto:cwright1717@gmail.com).

We invite all club directors to submit more detail about their opportunities for learning for us to publish in future issues of BridgeBits. Send to [christmascarol999@yahoo.com](mailto:christmascarol999@yahoo.com) or [MarshallWilliams@mac.com](mailto:MarshallWilliams@mac.com)

### **Rhode Island Bridge Clubs and contact information:**

- Bridge Club of Northern RI  
25 Greene St, North Smithfield  
Mr Clinton L Wright  
401-529-6674  
[cwright1717@gmail.com](mailto:cwright1717@gmail.com)

- Narragansett Bridge Club  
53 Mumford Rd, Narragansett  
Mrs Joan M O'Connell  
401-369-4012  
[jmoc34@cox.net](mailto:jmoc34@cox.net)

- Viking Bridge Club  
324 E Main Rd, Portsmouth  
Susan J Miguel  
401-447-0036  
[suemiguel@cox.net](mailto:suemiguel@cox.net)  
Note: game for new players Wednesdays at Noon. We start off with about a 1/2 hour lesson and followup with a great duplicate game. We have a coaching staff available to answer questions and provide support.

- The Bridge Place  
401 Elmgrove Ave, Providence  
Dwares Jewish Community Center  
Mr Barton Buffington  
401-390-9244  
[abarton295@aol.com](mailto:abarton295@aol.com)  
Note: guided play is held Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

- Ocean State Bridge Club  
1215 Main Rd, Tiverton  
Michael J McDonald  
508-636-3138  
[mcdonaldmj46@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdonaldmj46@hotmail.com)

- Warwick Bridge Club  
436 Buttonwoods Ave, Warwick  
Mr Robert Garfinkel  
401-739-0481  
[director@warwickbridgeclub.com](mailto:director@warwickbridgeclub.com)

Also note: Bridge instructor Walter Morgan runs a non-sanctioned game in Barrington, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Peck Center, below Barrington Town Hall and Barrington Library. Information: [www.morganbridge.club](http://www.morganbridge.club)

## Transportation Available

If you are interested in playing bridge at a club, Sectional, or Regional and are unable to walk to a bus stop due to a disability, you may be eligible to receive transportation from RIDE for \$4 each way. You will get picked up and dropped off at your home. Call 461-9760 for info

## TOURNAMENT WINNERS

### Spring Spectacular

Johnston, RI, March 16-17

Stratified Open Pairs, March 16

1st Place: Terry Byrne, Jamestown, & Joyce Regan, East Greenwich

RIBA Top Finishers

John Maselli, Providence & John Malley, Pascoag, 5th place

Louis & Megan DiOrio, Providence, 3rd in B  
Alex Levitsky, Providence & Stuart Tre-worgy, Cumberland, 7th in B

Mario Briccetti, Kingston & James Shaughnessy, Wakefield, 4th in C and 8th in B

Deb Norman, Providence & Catherine Branch, Providence, 5th in C

299er Pairs Event, (2 sessions)

1st place: David Malkin, Providence & Nadine Harris, Newport

Beverly & Stanley Cohen, Pawtucket, 2nd place

Bracketed Swiss Teams 1

1st place: Samuel Pahk & Joon Pahk, Somerville, MA, Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain, Ma, Harrison Luba, Lynnfield, MA

Terry Byrne, Jamestown, Joyce Regan, East Greenwich, Greg Chang, Lexington, MA, Philip Lam, Cumberland, 4th place

Greg Klinker, Tiverton, Steve Myerson, Portsmouth, Chris Soares, Swansea, Bar-bara Bauchspies, Portsmouth, 2nd in X

Bracketed Swiss Teams 2, March 17

1st place: Clinton Wright, Slatersville, Fred Rogler, Glendale, Edmond Cabana, Blackstone, Barry Gilbert, Lincoln

3rd place - Robert Garfinkel, Pawtucket, Diane Lambert, Seekonk, Ida Farnworth, Lincoln, Catherine Branch, Providence

5th in C - Carol McCullough, Foster, Rhoda Mowry, North Providence, Lee Capobianco, Wakefield, Carol Prunk, Narragansett

3/5 in D - Valerie Roy, Wakefield, Barbara Latta, Narragansett, Elaine Capobianco, Wakefield, Marilyn Kilcline, Warwick,

Gold Mine Regional

Sturbridge, MA, April 11 - 14

RIBA First Place Finishers (Each bracket)  
Mary Newman & Joyce Zimmerman, Newport, 1st in B, Stratified 0-20, April 11

Keohane Seniors Regional

Falmouth, MA, April 24-28

RIBA First Place Finishers (each bracket)  
Joyce Regan, East Greenwich & Terry Byrne, Jamestown, Open Pairs, April 25

John Maselli, Providence, & John Malley, Pascoag, Flighted Pairs, April 27

## A BIT OF RI BRIDGE HISTORY

At right is a photo and article from the ACBL Bridge Bulletin from February 1992, about Eugenia Tellef, who may have been the first duplicate bridge director in Rhode Island (there is some disagreement about this), and who founded the Rhode Island Bridge Association. According to Bob Garfinkel, Tellef ran games all around the state. The article has lots of fascinating tidbits, and if you have your own memories of Eugenia Tellef (or other Rhode Island "pioneers of bridge") that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear about them for this newsletter. Thanks to Mike Marcucci for sending this article along to us.

In photo, Eugenia Tellef oversees her final bridge game in Cranston, RI. She retired after 52 years of directing and teachin bridge in RI.



## A 52-year love affair

By Brent Manley

It was the summer of 1939. Eugenia Tellef was a registered nurse living in the Pittsburgh area when she got a phone call from Rhode Island that changed her life.

Tellef, a widow with two small children, was known as an avid duplicate bridge player and teacher. Two friends, insurance claims adjusters, had gone to Rhode Island after the 1938 hurricane. In the two months they were there, they discovered there were no duplicate games.

When Tellef picked up the phone, one of her friends said: "Pack your suitcase. This is virgin territory for duplicate."

Thus began a 52-year love affair for the feisty Tellef, who only recently retired as the grande dame of bridge in Rhode Island. At 91, she is still going strong despite her decision to give up her weekly duplicate game in Cranston.

Tellef did indeed pack up and move to Rhode Island. Before long, she was teaching bridge three times a day seven days a week, and had founded the Rhode Island Bridge Association.

"She went from one end of the state to the other," said Ralph Mastrangelo, who learned bridge from Tellef. Mastrangelo was the 1990 *Rookie of the Year* in the *Ace of Clubs* competition. ♠

Mastrangelo said he admired Tellef for the way she ran her duplicate games.

"There were no prima donnas," he said. "She treated everyone the same." Mastrangelo said her philosophy of running bridge games is reflected in a sign she has posted in her kitchen: "This is the kitchen of Eugenia Tellef. I am the boss. If you don't believe it, *start something.*"

Her spirit was also reflected at the bridge table. Recalling the first tournament she ever attended — in Worcester MA — Tellef said she started off against Oswald Jacoby in the Mixed Pairs. Jacoby opened 1♣, Tellef recalls, and rebid the suit before becoming declarer in 3NT.

Despite Jacoby's bidding, Tellef led a club. She recalls getting a glare from Jacoby. When she got in later, she returned another club — the only defense to defeat Jacoby's contract. She and her partner went on to win the event.

Tellef has entertained many celebrities at her home, including Jacoby, Charles Goren, Alvin Landy and Helen Sobel.

Tellef, who suffered three broken ribs in an accident the night of her retirement party, said she plans to get out more when she recovers.

Tellef acknowledges that bridge has been good to her. "I don't think there's another person in the world who has as many good friends as I do. It's been the happiest 52 years I could have had."

*New England Bridge Association*

# **“Pro - Am” Game**

***Saturday, August 31, 2019, 7:30 p.m.***

**Ocean State Regional  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI**

“Pro’s” - over 500 masterpoints — will play with “Amateur” partners (under 500 MPs) — in a super master point event at the Warwick Regional. We are hoping to recruit lots of local Pro’s to be available for any “Am” who needs a partner.

To sign up as a “Pro” or “Am”: email Marshall Williams at **[marshallwilliams@me.com](mailto:marshallwilliams@me.com)** or call **401-749-2009**