



# NEWSLETTER

LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

FEBRUARY 2025



The LRDBC hosted a 0-500 NLM tournament January 23-25. Co-chairs Marci Hixson and Lori Conley and a team of volunteers ensured that the tournament ran smoothly and everyone had a good time.

Directors were our own Dick Heil and Noel Stewart (from HSV).



## THURSDAY WINNERS



**Thursday AM 0-500  
Sue Fess and Alan Hipps**



**Thursday Afternoon & Friday Afternoon 0-500 Pairs  
Randy Gammill and Joy Bush**



**Thursday Morning & Friday Morning 0-500  
Charlotte Nabholz and LeeLee Hess**



**Thursday Afternoon 0-500  
Donna Smith & Judy Conley**



**Thursday AM 0-99  
Deborah Smart and Becky Dennison**



**Thursday Afternoon 0-99  
Vicki Stringfellow & Silvina Games**

## FRIDAY WINNERS



Friday Morning 0-500  
SanDee Clifton & Helen Herr

## SATURDAY SWISS WINNERS



Saturday Swiss Team  
Becka Reed, Beryl Cumberworth,  
Sue Fess, Richard Hixson



Friday Afternoon 0-500  
Pat Case & Judy Conley

## TOURNAMENT REPORT

0-500 Tournament Table count:  
Thursday morning - 15 tables  
Thursday afternoon - 16 tables  
Friday morning - 16.5 tables  
Friday afternoon - 18 tables  
SaturdaySwiss - 8 tables  
Total silver masterpoints earned  
179.56!!



Friday Afternoon 0-99  
Gary and Lois Eubanks



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL  
THE WINNERS AND  
ESPECIALLY TO OUR MEMBERS!!**



Charlotte Gonzales  
Deborah Beard

Read more information about the new member party on next page.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO MEMBERS BORN IN FEBRUARY**

Anne	MAXEY	Feb 01
Tom	BYARLAY	Feb 04
Mary	HUDSON	Feb 04
Sue	MYATT	Feb 06
Kaye	STANLEY	Feb 08
David	COCKCROFT	Feb 09
Annette	CONNAWAY	Feb 09
Lana	FOOT	Feb 12
Bill	JONES	Feb 12
Janice	ATTERBERRY	Feb 14
Susan	HOAG	Feb 14
Martha	LEMOINE	Feb 15
Elaine	LOWENS	Feb 16
Betty	NEELY	Feb 16
Leelee	HESS	Feb 18
Jan	WORDEN	Feb 20
John	MUELLER	Feb 21
Jackie	SANDERS	Feb 21
Linda Kay	NICHOLS	Feb 22
Margaret	KELLY	Feb 23
Lois	PIPPIN	Feb 26
Fran	COCKCROFT	Feb 27
Ann R.	LEWIS	Feb 27
Linda	BRASHEARS	Feb 28

## **NEW MEMBER APPRECIATION PARTY**

Join us for an afternoon of bridge in a fun, relaxed atmosphere where the emphasis is on getting to know our new members.

An individual movement will be played so you can mix and mingle with newer players as well as older players. No partner needed.

**Best of all,  
It's FREE!**

**Sunday, February 23rd**

12:45 Chips, dip, cake and mimosas

1:30 Game (All Levels)

Appetizers to share are always a welcome addition from anyone who would like to contribute.



## New Member Appreciation Party

Our wonderful club is growing again! The club will celebrate this by welcoming our newest members to our once-traditional and now revived New Member Appreciation Party. We enjoy getting to know everyone who joined in the recent past.

This year the party will be Sunday, February 23, at 1:30 p.m. Here are the details and conditions of contest:

1. This is FREE BRIDGE, no table fee.
2. This is an individual movement, the only game of the year using this method. Partners are assigned and will rotate throughout the event.
3. Seat assignments are by masterpoint rank, with each group seated in the same direction. The quartile of players with the most masterpoints will sit North and will partner the quartile with the fewest masterpoints (our newest players). The players in the middle two quartiles will sit East and West.
4. Each direction is scored separately. So if you are sitting South, your scores will be compared to all the other South players. Same with each of the other three directions. There will be four winning players, four second place, etc.

5. The movement is wild. Don't worry, you won't get lost! Sometimes you move 2 tables, sometimes 1, sometimes backwards, and do-si-do.

6. There is no teaching. It doesn't matter how badly your expert partner plays, you can't give instructions. If you are the type who needs to give a lesson on every hand, this is not your game.

7. Everyone plays Standard American. No Two over One, no Precision, no ACOL. Standard carding, standard discards, standard everything.

8. Players are allowed to lightly coach newer players through Stayman, Jacoby transfers, and other elements of Standard American. Details and limitations will be explained by the director.

9. No director calls for leads out of turn and similar minor infractions. The point is to meet new members, with the secondary point being to play good bridge.

10. The game is only for those who want to have fun. Save your intensity for another day. Within the context of "fun" you are encouraged to play well, but...have fun.



Dan Graham celebrates his birthday!!

## Goren in Little Rock

by Dick Chapman

Last month we featured an article about a proposed visit in September 1957 by the early bridge champion and writer Charles Goren to Little Rock. Curtis Finch, Sr. (the father of our Curtis and the namesake of our building) had invited Goren to come to a tournament sponsored in part by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, and to write articles for the Gazette in conjunction with playing with various (presumably paying) partners in the various sessions.

Recently I interviewed Curtis, Jr. to ask about that proposed visit. "Did Goren indeed come to Little Rock?" The answer was a very clear "I don't know." It seems that Curtis Jr. was in the Army in Germany in 1957 and either never knew or doesn't remember whether Goren came to that tournament.

But Curtis does remember an earlier visit of Goren to Little Rock.

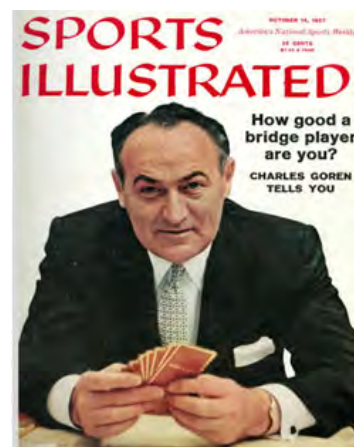
In Curtis' words:

Goren came to a tournament in Little Rock in the late 1940's or maybe 1950. He had dinner with our family the day he arrived. Goren picked up quickly that my brother and I had no interest in bridge, so he directed the conversation to baseball. Goren was from Philadelphia and was quite a baseball fan himself. At the time Philadelphia's two teams (the A's and the Phillies) were in the cellars of their respective leagues. My brother and I knew all about baseball, especially since Bill Dickey, the long-time catcher for the Yankees, lived in Little Rock and was a friend of our parents. As I recall, it was late summer and Goren was up to date on the standings, batting averages, etc.

At dinner, fried chicken was served. Goren attacked with knife and fork until my mother said, "Mr. Goren, we just pick up the chicken and eat it that way." Of course, he complied.

At that time the Gazette published a bridge column by Ely Culbertson. My dad called Hugh Patterson, the publisher, and told him that Culbertson was not in vogue and that the Gazette should start using Goren's column. The paper promptly changed.

At that time my dad decided to allow local players to play a session with Goren for \$50, and this was quickly over-subscribed. [Note from RWC: think what \$50 meant in 1950...it would be over \$600 in today's money.]



Curtis, Jr. also offers this anecdote, which many of us have heard: At a big tournament, Goren was playing with his favorite partner Helen Sobel. A fan of Goren was kibitzing and gushed "oh, Mrs. Sobel, what is it like to play with the world's greatest player?" Sobel coolly replied "I don't know, you will have to ask Charlie." There is some basis for this quip, as Sobel ended up with 35 NABC titles compared to Goren's 32.

We still don't know if Goren reappeared in 1957. I will try to get into Gazette records to see if there are news reports of a visit. I'll report if I find something. Currently the main library is closed, so this may take some time.

## LRDBC January Minutes

Highlights of January 20th meeting

- President to replace Byron Southern-Lori Conley
- Vice-President to replace Lori Conley - Becky Bien
- Board Member to replace Becky Bien - David Menz
- Dick Heil to continue as Lead Director and Mike Porta to continue as Club Manager
- Nancy Speer reported we currently have 262 members that have paid 2025 dues
- Marci also reported we need to find a co-chair for the summer tournament since it was previously Lori Conley
- Diane Lord reported The Bridge House is functioning well with no major issues at this time.
- Currently 49 people have signed up for the FREE morning classes and 38 for the FREE night class. We do need people to volunteer to be table helpers for the Tuesday night class. Volunteers can contact Carolyn Stowers.
- Interim Treasurer, John Mueller, reported net income for the year 2024 was \$20,940, as compared to \$9,103 in 2023. John advised that the increase in net income was related to an increase in tournament income, interest income, and a 5% increase in table count for the year.
- Jim Hathaway, Jackie Sanders, Sue Fess, and Becka Reed will receive \$100 each for qualifying and playing in the GNT Nationals in Toronto in July 2024, and we will issue Nancy Speer and Pete Marvin each \$100 for qualifying and playing in the Memphis NAP in March.
- Motion passed to set Tuesday night game at 0-50.
- Dick Heil addressed the need to develop additional new directors. Marci Hixson has been added as a new director and Mary Anne Wildman is currently in training.

(continued next page)

**We gratefully acknowledge  
the following contributions  
to The Bridge House:**

### In Memory of Byron Southern

Given by  
Ann Lewis  
Judy & Dick Chapman  
Curtis Finch  
Laura Humphrey  
Sheila Mehaffy  
Annette Connaway  
Cheryl Floyd  
Diane Lord  
Jane Teed  
Fran & David Cockcroft  
Bruce Wachsman  
Marilyn Lyons  
Bodie Cobb  
Jean Hendrix  
Connee Ellis

### In memory of Johnna Rice

Given by Bodie Cobb

### In honor of Lori Conley

Given by Annette Connaway

### In honor of Jan Trotter, Jane Teed, and Connie True

Given by Fran & David  
Cockcroft

### In honor of Judy and Dick Chapman

Given by Fran & David  
Cockcroft

### Undesignated Gift

Given by Mary C. Johnson



**THANK  
YOU!!**

# YAY!

## Recent Rank Achievements (From January ACBL report)

### Carole Nutter

Regional Master (100 masterpoints, with at least 15 black, 15 silver, and 5 red/gold/platinum)

# WOW!

## 70% GAMES

### LEELEE HESS & CHARLOTTE NABHOLZ

0-500 GAME 12/8/24 71.67%

### RICHARD HIXSON & BERYL

### CUMBERWORTH

0-500 GAME 1/3/25 70.75%

### PAT CASE AND JUDY CONLEY

0-500 PAIRS 1/31/25 74.60%



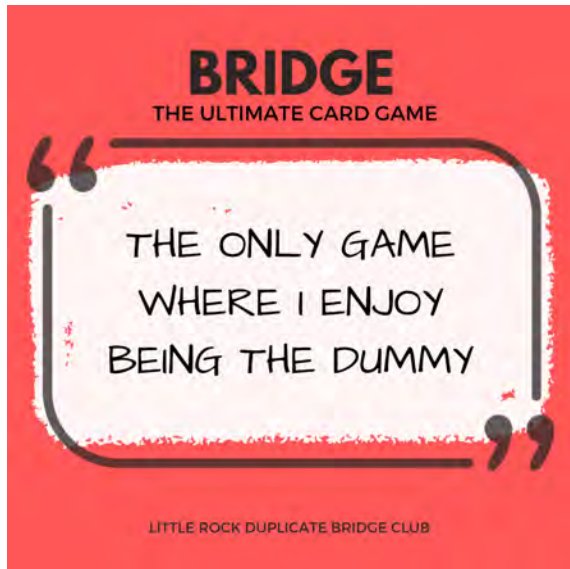
New members of the Legacy Society that have pledged a donation of \$1000 or more are Tom Wahl, Karen Steed, Gary Eubanks, Lois Pippin Eubanks, and Jean Hendrix.

If you have an interest in learning more about the Bridge House Legacy Program, please contact Vickey Metrailler or Travis Atterberry.

Other members of the 2025 Legacy Committee are Fran Cockcroft, John Mueller, and David Menz.



Leo Hawkins brings his famous cheese dip for Melanie's birthday celebration!!



Minutes cont...

- Libby Taylor agreed to lead local charity committee.
- Long Range Planning Committee to review our policies regarding inclement weather policy and the NAP/GNT funding.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MELANIE LAMKIN!!  
from her bridge partners



# February 2025

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<p><b>STaC and Educational Fund Games are extra \$1 table fee</b>  <b>All players play free in New Member Appreciation Party February 23</b></p>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1:30 p.m. 8 is Enough Swiss Teams	12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 12:30 p.m. Open Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. Open Unit Wide Championship	9:00 a.m. Mentoring Game (on BBO) 12:30 p.m. 0 – 750 Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. Open 6:30 p.m. 0-100 Educational Fund	9:00 a.m. 0 – 200 12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 7:00 p.m. Open Educational Fund	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 12:30 p.m. Open STaC	12:30 p.m. Open STaC 6:30 p.m. 0-20 Educational Fund	9:00 a.m. Mentoring Game (on BBO) 12:30 p.m. 0 – 750 Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. Open STaC 6:30 p.m. 0-100 Educational Fund	9:00 a.m. 0 – 200 12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 7:00 p.m. Open STaC	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1:30 p.m. 8 is Enough Swiss Teams Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 12:30 p.m. Open Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. Open 6:30 p.m. 0-20 Educational Fund	9:00 a.m. Mentoring Game (on BBO) 12:30 p.m. 0 – 750 Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. Open 6:30 p.m. 0-100 Educational Fund	9:00 a.m. 0 – 200 12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 7:00 p.m. Open Educational Fund	
23	24	25	26	27	28	28
1:30 p.m. New Member Appreciation Party Individual Movement	12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 12:30 p.m. Open Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. Open 6:30 p.m. 0-20 Educational Fund	9:00 a.m. Mentoring Game (on BBO) 12:30 p.m. 0 – 750 Educational Fund	12:30 p.m. Open 6:30 p.m. 0-100 Educational Fund	9:00 a.m. 0 – 200 12:30 p.m. 0 – 500 7:00 p.m. Open Educational Fund	

## SAD MEMBER NEWS

Two former LRDBC members have recently died, each at age 99:

Gerald Joseph Evert (November 12, 1925 – December 28, 2024)

Johnna Lucile Rice (August 14, 1925 – January 3, 2025)



**Membership Dues 2025**  
Pay at the Director's desk

OR

Make your check payable to LRDBC  
and mail to:  
Nancy Speer  
2116 Sawgrass Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72212



7415 Indiana Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72207