

LIBRARY CORNER

Michael (Mike) Lawrence is described online as “an American bridge player, teacher, theorist, and prolific writer.” The Chattanooga Bridge Center library holdings contain twenty-four different titles written by Lawrence, and a total of forty-one of his books. His subjects include overcalls, balancing bids, takeout doubles, passed-hand bidding, DON'T (disturbing opponents' no trump), bidding tips, two-over-one bidding, and more. His writing is clear and concise, and his books have won more than one book-of-the-year awards in the bridge world. Whether the reader is a novice desiring to improve his/her game, or an experienced player looking for advice from a master, there is something for every bridge player. Lawrence was an original member of the Dallas Aces, and he has been part of teams that have won three world titles and eighteen national titles. In addition to his books, he has helped develop educational bridge software that is available online.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

February, 2023



Editor: **Sandy Cervantes**

Features Editor: **Cheryl Whitfield**

A message from the president...

I would like to remind you this month about two key opportunities. The first is that we are hosting an Open Sectional March 24-26 at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Because the event is at the Bridge Center, there are space constraints, and we have to limit the number of people who can attend. So, it is very important that you notify **Margie Moses** if you wish to play. You can text her at 910.620.4582 or email her at margie.moses1@gmail.com. Please let her know about each game in which you plan to play. We look forward to seeing you there!



As for the second opportunity—do you want to play more bridge but need a partner? Please reach out to **Jan Alexander** and she will work with you to find a partner. Jan will do her best to align your knowledge of the game with that of another person. If you hear of someone who is looking for additional partners, let them know that Jan is eager to help. Just recently at one of our Friday games, I spoke with at least three people who had talked with Jan or were about to reach out to her. This is a great way to increase your playing time. Why not take advantage of this great opportunity.

See you at Bridge!

Richard Spangler



A Smidgen of Smiths

A Very Descriptive Bid After Jacoby 2NT

A popular convention - Jacoby 2NT after one of a major opening by your partner - is one of Oswald Jacoby's best contributions to bridge. 2NT shows 4+ cards in your partner's opening major, an opening hand, and is forcing to game.

We are going to talk about one specific bid for the opener after his partner bids Jacoby 2NT - jumping to the 4 level to 4♣, 4♦, or 4♥:

1♠ (P) 2NT (P)

4♣/4♦/4♥

This is a very useful and descriptive bid, showing a 5-card suit with 2 of the top 3 honors. Rather than showing shortness, which is your normal first response, we think it's better to show a source of tricks. Let's bid this hand:

North is opener and holds:

♠A9842

♥8

♦KQ765

♣A3

You are South and hold:

♠KQT73

♥A93

♦AJ2

♣K5

Bidding progresses:

1♠ (P) 2NT (P)

4♦ (P) 4NT (P)

5♥ (P) ?

North opens 1♠

South bids 2NT - Jacoby 2NT

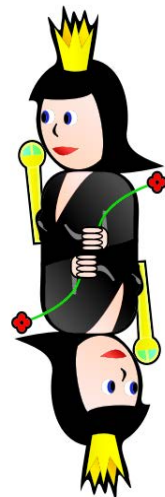
North bids 4♦, showing 5 diamonds with 2 of top 3 honors

South bids 4NT - Blackwood, or keycard

North shows 2 Aces (no queen if you are playing keycard)

Now how should you use that information? We know partner has the two black aces, AND the KQxxx of diamonds. We know we can take 5 spades, 1 heart, 5 diamonds and 2 clubs. 13 tricks! We have 13 tricks in spades, but we also have the same tricks in NT, so we can bid 7NT. Matchpoint Wizard! This hand would be very difficult to bid if we didn't know partner had 5 diamond tricks for us.

Linda and Ron Smith





DON'T MISS OUT RESERVE NOW



You can't be too early to make your reservations for our upcoming Sectional Tournament to be held at the Chattanooga Bridge Center Friday through Sunday, March 24-26, 2023. Space is limited and reservations are required. Take advantage of this opportunity to earn silver points without the extra cost of transportation or a hotel.

There are open and 299er games on Friday and Saturday in the morning and the afternoon. On Sunday, there is a stratified Swiss Team 2-session event. Teams will be stratified by team masterpoint average.

Margie Moses is anxious to take your reservation. You can text her at 910.620.4582 or email her at margie.moses1@gmail.com. If you need help finding a partner, contact **Myra Tatum** at 423.316.4025.

Don't miss out on the fun.

Happy
Valentine's
Day





February Special Pairs Game



You still have time to find a partner for our special pairs game coming up on Saturday, February 4, at the CBC. **MJ Levine** and **Judy**

Monen are hosting and have decided on a Mexican theme. The CBC will provide the taco main course and ask that players bring food to accompany the meal. There is a sign-up sheet at the CBC. Lunch will be served at 11:30 A.M. The game should start at Noon.

We had a great time at our January special game with nine full tables enjoying delicious fried chicken and all the fixin's! Here are the winners of that Sunday game:

North/South

Winnell Goodner/Shayna Scott
Susan Rothberger/Earl Rothberger
Donna Cart/Doug Cart

East/West

Ken Thompson/Joe Viola
MJ Levine/Iris Abelson
John Felker/Stephanie Felker

Make sure you don't miss all the fun. This is Educational Foundation Month.
That means there are extra points available!



Special GNT Game Saturday, February 18

So, you ask, "What's a GNT?" The **Grand National Teams** (GNT) is one of the two annual ACBL-wide 'Open' contests in bridge, the other being the North American Pairs (NAP). This is a knock-out team event and is broken into 4 flights (Championship, A, B, C). Qualifying begins at the local level and ends with a national competition at the summer North American Bridge Championship (NABC) to be held in Chicago this year.

Get busy and form your team. There's no point limit on the championship flight; Flight A-under 6000; Flight B-under 2500; Flight C-NLM under 500.

There's a GNT qualifying game on Saturday, February 18. Janie Hunt is hosting, and it's a true potluck—no formal main course, but players are asked to bring appetizers, snacks or desserts to share. We will start to serve at 11:30 and the game should begin at 12:00 Noon.

Myra's Box



Hi All,

I want to let you know that we're getting a new online VACB number. It will be announced soon, so watch for an email from me. This change should be seamless for Unit 206 players, but I wanted to alert guests who play in our online

games in case there are adjustments that need to be made.

Here's a photo from our recent trip. I thought it was interesting that just like at a bridge game, there's always one in the crowd who just can't keep his mouth shut!

Myra



Happy Birthday
Feliz Cumpleaños
Bon Anniversaire
Buon Compleanno
Feliz Anniversario
Iyi Ki Doğdun

Both our nonagenarians celebrated their 90+ birthdays this past January. We send our very best wishes for many, many more celebrations

to Joyce Nicoll and Cal Brassfield—two amazing people who are wonderful testaments to the incontrovertible health benefits of our favorite game.



Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club



The Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club will celebrate Valentine's Day on February 16th with some special treats. Everyone is welcome, so please come join us in this fun, relaxed social game. Every Thursday, we meet at the Mountain City Club. Our game starts at 10:30 a.m. but we ask that you arrive no later than 10:15 a.m. It's necessary to reserve a spot, so if you are interested, please contact Susie Crouch at susancrouch54@gmail.com.

Our Marvelous Member of the Month is **Winnell Goodner**, our Membership Chair. Winnell is loved and appreciated by everyone and gently keeps us all in line. Above all, as Suzy Bryant proclaims (and we all fervently agree), she is the nicest person on the planet!



HIP HIP HOORAY!

Congratulations and a huge pat on the back go out to Joe Viola and Dan Chandler who were big winners at the recent sectional tournament in Pigeon Forge.

Unit 206's dynamic duo each won 34.81 masterpoints and came in 8th overall. It's easy to understand their success once you read this quote from Dan Chandler, "Joe was magnificent!"

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE



Are you looking for something new and challenging in your life, something to stimulate those little gray cells? Look no more—it's BRIDGE! Partnership Chair **Jan Alexander's** (janalexander@epbfri.com) committee matches players looking for partners. If you contact Jan, she'll wave her magic wand and, *voila!* You'll be sitting at the bridge table in no time.

HATS OFF TO...



This month we would like to acknowledge **Margie Moses** for all that she does to support the club.

Margie is on the Board of Directors and serves as the Secretary. In that capacity she prepares and obtains approval for the monthly minutes. She also assists Myra Reneau, our Club Manager.

On top of these demanding requirements, you have probably recently seen her as she collects and documents the payment of our annual dues this year. She helped to coordinate the upgrade to our Website and has served as an Ambassador every month. As you saw earlier in the newsletter, Margie will also be taking registrations for our upcoming Sectional Tournament. So, you can see how the Board wanted to recognize her contribution and thank her for her support!

We're Thinking about you, Jim



We're happy to hear that Jim Snyder is on the mend, but understand that it's slow going. Just remember, Jim, that slow progress is still progress! We send you warm wishes as you heal and get your strength back. We miss you and hope to see you at the bridge table soon.

Attention: All Football Fans Having Monday Night Withdrawal Symptoms?



Anne Donnovin is recruiting new players for our bi-monthly online Mentor/Mentee Game. It doesn't matter if you're experienced or not, Anne quickly matches you up with a partner so you can have a fun evening. The game is always held online through BBO at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month—so February's games will be the 13th and 27th. You are asked to be online and ready by 6:45 p.m. Everyone has a chance to come out on top, so don't miss this chance to win some masterpoints. If you would like to play, let Anne know by contacting her at aadonnovin@bellsouth.net.



Cleveland Bridge Club News

There's a game in Cleveland (that's Tennessee not Ohio!) every Tuesday at the Senior Center on Urbane Road. Everyone is invited.

The game starts at 1:00 p.m., but please arrive fifteen minutes early so the game can begin promptly. You are asked to make reservations by texting **Polly Sullivan** at 423.715.0986 or **Teresa Moore** at 423.321.2778 if you plan to play. Reservations will help avoid any unnecessary problems in the event of cancellations."

Nooga East Bridge Club News



Don't miss out on the fun at Christ United Methodist Church at 8645 East Brainerd Road. Every Monday, rain or shine, there's a bridge game at 12:30 p.m. Everyone has a great time, so why not test the waters and try it out next Monday. Please arrive no later than 12:15 as the game starts promptly at 12:30. You are asked to make reservations by emailing noogabridgeeast@gmail.com or by calling or texting **Sharon Lewis** at 423.240.5360.

How would you fill in the blank? "To me bridge ____."



This month, one of our newer players was put on the hot seat and came up with this response. This is **John Hubbard's** contribution:

"A long time ago a friend tried to get me to come to the Bridge Center. But I didn't. Finally another friend got me to come, and we played for about 6 months before the pandemic shut everything down. Well, I came back on my own once I saw the Bridge Center open back up. I gained a bridge partner, Judy, over the past year and a bunch of new friends. And, I have had lots of fun playing the Mentor/Mentee games where I have learned a lot. I hope to get better, especially at bidding, and to enjoy lots more years playing with you great group of players and fun people. Just to say how much fun I am having, I seem to be spending as much or more time playing bridge as kayaking on the area rivers."





MANNERS ARE IMPORTANT!



Respect the time of others

- ♦ We recommend that you arrive at least 15 minutes before starting time.
- ♦ Watch the timer and be considerate of others; move when the round is called. Don't move early or late; move only after the round is called.
- ♦ Have a completed Convention Card (both you and your partner).
- ♦ Make your opening lead or table the dummy before you enter the contract in your private score sheets or the BridgeMates. Remember the opening lead is to be led face down to allow for questions!
- ♦ Bid and play in a timely manner.
- ♦ When moving to a new table, make sure you are at the right table with the right opponents.
- ♦ Also check to see that Bridgemates and Place Card agree.

Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

We weren't able to have our usual F2F Mentor/Mentee game in January due to the tournament in Pigeon Forge, but this popular, "don't-miss" game is making its return this month. Mark your calendar now for our next game on February 17. If you are interested in playing either as a mentor or mentee, text or call **Sue Shramko** at 404.304.7017.

This game is always fun, and it's usually difficult to predict the winners. It's easy to see that everyone has a great time because table count is always high. At the December team game, we had 13 teams competing, and the regular pair games are equally as popular with 10-12 tables in play. Make plans now to spend an enjoyable Friday afternoon at the CBC.



Bridge Tip for February

After partner opens the bidding and second hand overcalls 1NT to show the strength of an opening 1NT bid, double for penalty if you have 9 or more HCP. Bidding a suit denies the strength to double.

Eddie Kantar



CONGRATULATIONS

We all know that bridge provides a variety of meaningful benefits. For proof, just take a look at our two nonagenarians! Our favorite pastime offers a venue for social interaction, strengthens communication and team-work skills, and helps preserve mental sharpness. And, according to a UC-Berkeley researcher, bridge even contributes to boosting our immune system. The icing on the cake for many is the competitive challenge and the thrill of winning. Congratulations to the winners of the Unit 206 2022 Ace of Clubs masterpoint race.

0-5 Masterpoints

Linda Lee Metz

5-20 Masterpoints

John Hubbard

20-50 Masterpoints

Marian Creighton

50-100 Masterpoints

Leslie Nelson

100-200 Masterpoints

Jan Alexander

200-300 Masterpoints

Stewart Lawwill

300-500 Masterpoints

Margie Moses

500-1000 Masterpoints

Tom Trivers

1000-1500 Masterpoints

Sandy Cervantes

1500-2500 Masterpoints

Carol Grizzard

2500-3500 Masterpoints

John Felker

3500-5000 Masterpoints

Daniel Chandler

5000-7500 Masterpoints

Joe Viola

Over 10,000 Masterpoints

Linda Smith

Do you know...

What's the largest score you can get for making a contract?



You might think that 7NT is the highest score you can get for making a contract—a Grand Slam bid and made must be worth a lot. It is. A vulnerable 7NT will score 220 trick points, 500 for the game bonus and 1500 for the grand slam bonus—2220 altogether. But the largest possible score you can get for making a contract is 3160—for making 1NT redoubled with six vulnerable overtricks: 160 for 1NT redoubled, 500 game bonus, 100 redouble bonus and 6 lovely overtricks worth 400 each.

Thanks to the English Bridge Union (www.ebu.co.uk) for this interesting tidbit.



Spotlight... Joyce and Ray Feher*



Joyce and I were both raised on farms in northwest Genesee County about 20 miles from Flint, Michigan, which at the time was a booming city because of the many General Motors factories located there. After Joyce moved to the city, we attended school together from grade school through high school and graduated from high school together. Our graduating class was a whopping 32 in number. We were both athletes and played sports throughout our high school years.

Through sports and other school activities, we were friends until the girlfriend/boyfriend bug hit us during our junior year. We became more and more serious as time passed and were married after we graduated from high school.

My parents were immigrants from Hungary, and Joyce's background was from Canada. As with most other families in our small town, our parents were farmers and also worked for one of the GM factories in Flint. My father's vision for me was to become an engineer and work for Chevrolet for a career. I was fortunate to be chosen for one of the few co-op positions. While attending GMI, Joyce went to work for Chevrolet as an IBM keypunch operator. During my 3 years at GMI, we lived in a mobile home in our home town and had our first child, Raymond. We both came to the conclusion that this path was not the direction we wanted for our lives. I transferred to Central Michigan University where I got a master's degree in mathematics and started our 16-year career in teaching high school mathematics and coaching football and basketball. During our 8 years in Michigan, we had our two younger boys, Jim and Mike.

Realizing that we could not make a good living teaching, I took a job with Boise Cascade (a manufacturer of quality wood products and building materials) in 1973 and made the big move to the South. We lived and worked in Nashville for 5 years, and then moved to Oklahoma for 3 more years, but after being asked to transfer again (to Dallas), I decided to start a business of my own utilizing the skills I learned in my 8 years with Boise. Through a friendship that developed when we lived in Nashville, I was introduced to the idea of becoming a manufacturer's representative. My friend had now moved to Sweetwater, Tennessee, and was manufacturing flat, tempered, decorative glass and was in need of representation for the appliance manufacturing industry. In short, this company would act as the sales arm for small manufacturing companies that did not have the resources to market and sell their products to the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

I started Ray Feher and Associates with one principal and me as the only sales person. Within one year, I had expanded to several principals. Our principals were all manufacturing component parts which we sold to industries. (An example is the glass doors that are used on cooking ranges.) Our customers at that time were Magic Chef and Roper Corporation. We are still selling the same product, but now the customers are General Electric and Whirlpool. After three years, I expanded to over a dozen principals and all three of our sons are involved in the business, which they still run today.

Joyce has been supportive of my work endeavors and always was involved in the business in whatever capacity she was needed. However, first and foremost, she was the mother of our 3 sons and did a great job in raising them. We now are blessed with 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. For about 20 years now, we have spent our winters in Florida either at our condo in Siesta Key in Sarasota or at our home at Black Diamond Ranch, a golfing community in central Florida. We have lived on Signal Mountain since 1980 and have loved every minute of it.

As most people know, I lost my left arm to cancer, but I have tried to continue with all my physical activities including golf, fly fishing, and gardening. I have a prosthesis that allows me to perform each activity to a degree, which still makes it fun for me, and many of our friends have enjoyed the veggies I have produced in my garden. Our first interest in cards started as youngsters watching our parents play pinochle and euchre during the long cold winter nights in Michigan.

Our first experience with party bridge was after college as we took our first teaching job in southwestern Michigan. Our neighbors were bridge players, and they taught us the fundamentals. We played off and on with them for the eight years we lived there. Joyce became friends with three ladies, and they played consistently every Wednesday night until we moved to our next job. When we finally moved to Chattanooga and also purchased a house in Florida, we began experimenting with duplicate bridge at a social level. Many years later we joined the ACBL, and with the help of Mike Sherman and others, we got hooked on duplicate bridge and became members of the Chattanooga Bridge Center and found a group of new and great friends which we still enjoy today. Hopefully we can continue to play and enjoy duplicate bridge for a long time.

**Our Blast from the Past this month is taken from Marcia Lanphear's "Spotlight" column in our November, 2012 newsletter featuring the greatly-missed and much-loved Fehers.*

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl



Here's a tip for the less experienced players. Can you spot the signal?

When you're playing in an open game, if you're on defense sometimes your opponent will ask you what your "carding" is, or what type of signals you and your partner use. Players who are new to the game probably haven't spent much time learning about defensive signals, but as you progress you will discover the importance of being able to communicate with your partner when defending. Here's an example of how that can work for you – it's a hand that I constructed to show how simple it can be.

You are sitting East, and here is the auction:

N	E	S	W
	1NT	P	
4♦*	P	4♥	P
P	P		

*Transfer to Hearts

Partner leads the Ace of Spades (ace from ace-king) and here is the dummy and your hand:

North (dummy)

♠Q87
♥Q109872
♦KJ
♣KJ

East (you)

♠103
♥J43
♦5432
♣5432

First things first: what card do you play on partner's lead? You should know to play the 10, a high card encouraging a continuation of the suit. Why? You have two spades and if partner leads the king next, you will be able to ruff a third spade trick. If you had three spades you would play your lowest card, discouraging a continuation, which would set up dummy's queen of spades for a possible discard by declarer. But here you play the 10, and when partner next plays the king of spades you echo (high-low) by playing the 3.

Partner now knows that you have a doubleton spade and can ruff the third round of the suit. So he leads another spade, and you dutifully play a trump to take the trick. Now it is your lead – what do you do?

The answer is simple and straightforward: what card did partner play at trick 3? Have you been watching the spots? Did you catch the signal that partner gave you? If not, you'll have to guess whether to return a club or a diamond. Let's count the high card points to see if that helps. You have 1, dummy has 12 and declarer has 15-17. That adds up to 28-30, leaving 10-12 for partner.

Continued

One Last Thing...continued

He has shown 7 so far with the ♠AK, leaving room for another ace or perhaps the ♥K. If he has ♥Kx he will always get a trick, so nothing to worry about. But if he has a minor suit ace, he'll want you to lead that suit right away in case the trick could disappear.

Let's go back to the question of what to lead. What card did partner lead for you to ruff at trick 3? Was it a high card (the ♠J ♠9) or a low card (the ♠2 or ♠4)? Partner could have led either high or low, knowing that dummy had to play the ♠Q. That gave him an opportunity to signal a suit preference – does he want you to lead the higher of the two other suits (diamonds) or the lower (clubs)? If he wants a diamond led back to him he'll lead a high spade for you to ruff; if he wants a club, he'll lead a low spade.

It's up to partner to give the appropriate signal, but it's also up to you to pay attention to the spots so that you know what signal he is giving.

Here's the full hand to illustrate why it is so important for you and your partner to take the guesswork out of defending a bridge hand. If you had to guess, you'd get it right half the time, but with proper defensive signals you'll never miss.

<u>North (dummy)</u>		
♠Q87		
♥Q109872		
♦KJ		
♣KJ		
<u>West</u>		<u>East (you)</u>
♠AKJ2		♠103
♥5		♥J43
♦A9876		♦5432
♣987		♣5432
<u>South</u>		
♠9654		
♥AK6		
♦Q10		
♣AQ106		

If you lead a diamond, partner will win the ♦A for your fourth trick and declarer will go down one trick. But you can see what happens if you guess wrong and lead a club. Declarer will win the trick in dummy, pull trump and take three more club tricks, sluffing the ♦KJ from dummy. He will take 10 tricks – six hearts and four clubs, making his contract.

Back to the signal. I've made it easy in constructing this hand. Partner has two spades left to choose from, the jack and the deuce. If he leads the jack he's asking for a diamond lead from you, and if he leads the deuce he's asking for a club lead. It takes all the guesswork out, making your task easy.

Next time you're getting ready to play bridge and you're going over your convention card with partner, be sure you don't neglect the lower left-hand corner of the card where you indicate what approach you will use to signal. Talk about this with your partner and make sure you're both on the same page, and that you are both aware of the necessity to use signals correctly. As your game improves, you will rely on signals to show attitude (do you like or dislike the suit partner has led?), count (do you have an odd or even number of cards in the suit led, usually by declarer?), and suit preference (do you want partner to lead the higher or lower of the remaining suits other than trump?).