



AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

UNIT 106

NEWSLETTER

Interim Editor – Carole Gelfer

Available on the web at <http://www.bridge-njba.org>

Summer 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The months since the last newsletter have been relatively quiet. We had a successful Spring Sectional, 2 Eight is Enough games, as well as the Spring Swiss Teams event. The Fall, however, will be very busy, with 4 Unit and 2 District events between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. One of these events is the District 3 North American Pairs finals on October 10th. More information about this event, as well as how to find out if you qualify, can be found on page 5 of the newsletter. Flyers for this and the other events containing detailed information regarding times, cost, location, etc. are available on the Unit 106 website www.bridge-njba.org. In addition to flyers, please refer to the website for other current information of interest to Unit members, including various Unit and ACBL races and tournament results.

A description of some novel ACBL programs designed to engage newer bridge players is also included in the newsletter. Please encourage anyone just starting to play bridge or simply thinking about it to explore these fun and innovative programs.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in the Fall.

Best,
Carole

Upcoming 2026 Events

Event flyers are, or will be, available at the local clubs and on the web at www.bridge-njba.org

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| • September 19 | Pro-Am |
| • October 3 | Fall Swiss Teams |
| • October 4-7 | District 3 Regional – Poughkeepsie, NY |
| • October 10 | District 3 NAP finals |
| • October 24 | Eight is Enough Swiss Teams |
| • November 13-15 | Unit 106 Fall Sectional |

2026 NJBA UNIT 106

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Carole Gelfer 201-247-7406

Vice President

Pat Linnemeyer 201-651-0208

Treasurer

Mark Whitman 201-835-9873

Administrative Secretary

Steve Highfill 646-670-7465

Recording Secretary

Bob Sorce 201-560-1477

Tournament Committee

Pat Linnemeyer* 201-651-0208

Valerie Kazdhan 551-242-7177

Carla Cherrey 201-694-1359

Haritha Indugula 973-951-5675

Eight is Enough

Pat Linnemeyer* 201-651-0208

Carla Cherrey 201-694-1359

Haritha Indugula 973-951-5675

Sanctions

Michelle Lanigan 201-447-3709

Electronic Contact

Carole Gelfer 201-247-7406

Auditor

Doug Cestone 201-444-2348

Pairings

Steve Highfill 646-670-7465

Valerie Kazdhan 551-242-7177

(sectionals)

Ed Landau 973-633-0877

(Swiss Teams)

Spring Swiss Teams

Tod Thorgersen* 201-440-3090

Ed Landau 973-633-0877

Fall Swiss Teams

Tod Thorgersen* 201-440-3090

Ed Landau 973-633-0877

Pro Am

Ron Nelken 973-365-0740

Flyers

Barbara Bergen 201-214-2815

Email Distribution

Chris Thorn 201-403-4629

Annual Brunch

Pat Linnemeyer 201-651-0208

Haritha Indugula 973-951-5675

Carla Cherrey 201-694-1359

Membership/Prizes

Tod Thorgersen* 201-440-3090

Ed Landau 201-805-8386

Newcomer/Intermediate Promotion

Chris Thorn* 201-403-4629

Berrin Avcilar 201-888-5370

Carla Cherrey 201-694-1359

Haritha Indugula 973-951-5675

Website

Berrin Avcilar 239-888-5370

Unit Counsel

Joseph Pospis 201-887-1524

*Committee chair

Pro-Am Tournament Saturday, September 19

Christ Church
105 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
12:30pm

Early Fall Sectional September 25 – 27

Christ Church
105 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Fall Swiss Teams Saturday, October 3

Christ Church
105 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

All day, starting at 10:00am
Reservations required

North American Pairs Saturday, October 10

Christ Church
105 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

10:00am and TBD
Reservations required

Eight is Enough Swiss Teams Saturday, October 24

Christ Church
105 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

12:00
Reservations required

Club Directory

Kaplen JCC on the Palisades

411 E. Clinton Ave., Tenaflly, NJ 07670

Deborah Williams (914-329-3637)

Pre-Registration required

Friday 10:30 am, 0-999 game

New Bridgers

The Reformed Temple of Rockland

330 N Highland Ave., Upper Nyack, NY 10960

Marlene Case (845-942-1182)

<https://newbridgers.org/>

Tuesday 10:00am Supervised game 0-300 MP

Thursday 10:00am Duplicate game 0-699 MP

North Jersey Bridge Center

Christ Episcopal Church

105 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Pat Linnemeyer (551-427-6753)

www.njbridgecenter.com

Monday-Friday 12:30pm Open and 499er Games

Wednesday 12:30pm Supervised play

Friday 12:30pm Supervised play/Beginner Game

Sparta Duplicate Bridge Club

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

246 Woodport Rd., Sparta, NJ 07871

Fred Shubert (973-903-9713)

<https://site.pianola.net/sparta-dbc/home>

Monday Noon Open Game

Thursday 10:15am Intermediate Clinic

Thursday Noon NLM Game

Friday 11:00am Open Game

Saturday Monthly Swiss (see website)

Tenaflly Duplicate Bridge Club

The Tenaflly Senior Center

20 South Summit St., Tenaflly, NJ 07670

Betty Ann Smith (201-394-5754)

Chris Thorn (201-403-4629)

Tuesday 6:30pm Open Game

New Members

Austin Colm

Eileen Gallagher

Hilary Gallagher

Karen Rhee

Charles Starz

Georgine Starz

Roslyn Steinberg

In Memorium

Martin Cohen

Myron Rimer



Life Master

Anne Bendell

Bronze Life Master

Anne Bendell

Sapphire Life Master

Myra Bachman

Spring 2026 Sectional Winners

<https://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2026/03/2603382.htm>

Spring Swiss Teams Winners

A – Tod Thorgersen, Ed Landau,
Julian Schulman, Dave Kuenzler

B – Carole Gelfer, Cheryl Fischer,
Dan Benjamin, Sam Ghosh

C – Michael Contente, William Hans,
Herb Marche, Deborah Williams

First Trick Decision by Mark Whitman

Playing in a club duplicate with both sides vulnerable, you pick up a nice hand:

♠ 10 6
♥ A K Q 7 5 2
♦ A 8
♣ K 7 5

Your left-hand opponent and partner pass. Right-hand opponent opens a 15-17 one no trump. Your defense to the opponents' no trump happens to be Multi-Landy, so you don't have a penalty double available. If you want to bid with this hand, your correct bid would be 2♦, promising a long major suit. Partner would normally bid 2♥ (pass or correct), and you could then decide whether you wanted to raise. You do have an alternative though. There is a distinct possibility that the opponents will play in 1NT, and you have a good chance to take 8 tricks against that contract. Down 2 (200) will outscore all the partials your way. You decide to pass, but the auction doesn't end there.

LHO bids 2♠, which is alerted as a relay to the minor suits. Partner passes and RHO bids 3♣. Defending against a minor suit contract doesn't look as promising as defending against NT, so you now decide to bid 3♥. LHO still isn't done though. She bids 4♦, which is passed around to you. You could double, but if LHO is short in hearts, this might not turn out well. You decide to pass. Partner leads the ♥J and dummy is tabled.

Dlr: S Vul: Both	North ♠ K Q J 5 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ A Q 10
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East ♠ 10 6 ♥ A K Q 7 5 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ K 7 5

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the lead, take a moment and make a plan. With the ♥10 in dummy, partner's ♥J will either be a singleton or from a doubleton. So, you'll take at least two hearts and a diamond, but you may need to take a club as well to set this contract.

What do you know about declarer's hand? It's inconceivable that South would bid 4♦ vulnerable without at least six diamonds to the king and the ♠A. And since you "know" that declarer has at least six diamonds and two hearts, she has at most five cards in the black suits.

So once declarer knocks out your diamond ace, any club losers she has will disappear on dummy's good spades.

This means that you shouldn't overtake the ♥J at trick one, continue hearts, and then sit back and hope to take a trick with your club king. You must get partner to switch to a club right away if you are to get any club tricks. And since you have all other suits controlled at the moment, there is no risk to not overtaking even if partner's ♥J is a singleton.

So how do you get partner to switch to a club? You must play your ♥2 at trick one. When partner's heart jack holds the trick, he'll realize that you didn't overtake even though you could have. The only reason that you didn't overtake is that you needed partner on lead to make a shift, and playing your lowest heart directs partner to play the lower of the two side suits. If instead you wanted a spade shift (on a different hand), you'd play your highest heart below the jack.

Partner duly shifts to the ♣2, declarer finesses, and you win your ♣K. You then continue hearts, and when declarer mis-guesses the ♦J on the third round of hearts, you set the contract by two tricks. The full hand:

Dlr: S Vul: Both	North ♠ K Q J 5 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ A Q 10	East ♠ 10 6 ♥ A K Q 7 5 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ K 7 5
West ♠ 9 7 4 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ J 2 ♣ J 8 4 3 2	South ♠ A 8 3 ♥ 6 3 ♦ K 10 9 6 5 3 ♣ 9 6	

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Any continuation other than a club at trick two would potentially allow declarer to make the hand. If you had continued hearts, declarer could ruff the third heart high and then finesse the ♦10 to make ten tricks. You might have survived without a club shift on this hand because partner held the ♦J, but give declarer the ♦J instead of a low one and a club shift is absolutely essential.

3♥ down one by East was the most common result on the board. 4♦ down two was a next to top for E/W, losing out only to one E/W pair who defended 5♦ down three against a very optimistic N/S pair.

The North American Pairs Championship

The North American Pairs Championship is an ACBL-wide grassroots competition that is held each year to encourage all members – from non-Life Masters to top players – to compete for significant masterpoints and the possibility of a North American bridge title. The tournament begins with qualification sessions in bridge clubs (June, July and August), continues with the District 3 finals in October, and ends with the ACBL Finals at the NABC in Dallas in Spring 2027.

Participants must qualify at a club in North America, be a resident of District 3, and be a paid-up member of the ACBL. First and second-place pairs who qualify for the National event will receive a stipend from the ACBL to represent their district at the March 2027 NABC in Dallas. The names of the players who have qualified for the upcoming NAP finals on October 10th can be found at <https://acbl.org/nap-qualifiers/>.

News From the Clubs

NewBridgers Club

The NewBridgers club, located in Nyack, NY has had a busy first half of 2026. Our social calendar started with our Holiday party. Since then, several bagel brunches, a breakfast brunch and a luncheon have been held.

We continue to provide lessons on a rotating basis for beginner, intermediate and advancing players. We are fortunate to add Ida Peters, certified bridge teacher to our staff. Meryl Dinowitz has done a great job starting the bridge program and will continue to give classes.

Our classes have been well received. For July, August, and September, we are giving 4 classes in Hand Evaluation and Bidding with Less than Opening Hand. Come the Fall, we will be offering a different set of lessons for both beginning bridge and intermediate/advancing players.

We added 4 new directors to our club. Suzanne Kauffman, Berrin Avcilar, Janet Wallach and Ann Singer have passed the exam and are now certified. They are actively learning the other aspects of the Director's responsibilities. Well done ladies!

We recently increased our Thursday 500 game to 699. We do require reservations. Please e-mail Ann Singer at gpclady326@gmail.com if you plan to come.

Two of our members, Karla Norfleet and Ruth Harrison, have reached out into the community and held 4 sessions of Just Play Bridge at The Presentation Church. There were 9 participants, and all were interested in continuing to learn and play bridge. We do have a Play Bridge table during the regular Tuesday morning game.

Ridgewood Bridge Club

North Jersey Bridge Center is pleased to welcome a new Director, Doree Sobel. Doree is an experienced Director having worked for ACBL and at other clubs. NJBC is happy to have her join its excellent team of Directors.

ACBL Offerings for Newer Players

- **BridgeBattle**

- BridgeBattle gets people playing cards right away without asking them to learn bidding first. As players move through 4 levels, they begin learning concepts that include trick-taking, following suit, partnership, trump vs. no trump and eventually high-card points.

- **Trickstarter**

- Trickstarter is a free, one-hour Zoom class for people who are curious about bridge but not ready to commit to a full lesson series. You will get an overview of the game, how it works, and what learning it actually involves, so you can decide if it is worth pursuing. You will leave the class knowing what bridge is, what makes it compelling, and whether it is something you want to explore further. No experience needed. No obligation to continue. Classes are Free! Register through the ACBL website.

- **Sapphire Program**

- This program is designed as a way of engaging new players. Players earn Sapphires for things like taking lessons, playing BridgeBattle, playing in their first face-to-face game, playing online, and becoming a paid ACBL member. Sapphires are meant to celebrate growth as personal milestones for learning and playing bridge are achieved. Sapphires also have a small masterpoint value: 10 Sapphires = 0.1 masterpoints.
- You do not need to be an ACBL member to be part of this program or to have a partner. You can start earning sapphires as a Guest Member (free to sign up!) and earn more if you become a full member. Each sapphire is a badge of achievement, designed for new players to mark their progress <https://www.acbl.org/sapphires/#start>. To learn more about this program, contact your local club manager.



Unit 106 2026 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards

As of July 2026

The Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs contest recognizes the player from each masterpoint category who earns the most masterpoints solely in club-sanctioned events (excluding NAP/GNT qualifiers and STaCs) during the year. The top three players in each category so far in 2026 are listed below. The complete list can be found at <https://web2.acbl.org/as400/mpraces/unit/2026/ac106.htm>

0 to 5

Glenn Schachter	10.97
Allan Greene	7.12
Polina Feygin	4.25

200 to 300

Kathrina Tamasco	21.04
Yury Reznik	19.86
Gina Reznik	19.86

2500 to 3500

Peter Szabados	135.03
Dennis Keefer	91.72
Nicky Prell	88.05

5 to 20

Susan Blickman	8.28
Bob Demaria	7.91
Lisa Hayes	6.32

300 to 500

Michael Contente	51.41
Valerie Kazhdan	47.64
Beverly Higgins	34.80

3500 to 5000

John Wass	106.52
Joseph P Pospis	92.66
Subrata K Ghosh	82.15

20 to 50

Rhonda Pekow	18.41
Susan Defillippo	16.78
Carla Cherrey	16.62

500 to 1000

Melva Cummings	72.45
Martin Becker	39.44
Ada Cascone	27.30

5000 to 7500

Martin Singer	114.04
David Katzen	74.55
Doree Sobel	67.89

50 to 100

Jonathan Siegel	22.80
Ghazala Nomani	20.50
Peter Kaufmann	20.15

1000 to 1500

Wally Gebara	76.65
Beth Batastini	63.69
William Lambert	54.42

7500 to 10,000

Rena Harris	123.97
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100 to 200

Barbara Hallahan	38.89
Gilbert Sandler	35.43
William Migdal	28.06

1500 to 2500

Martin Gilbert	57.85
Marilyn Schor	46.86
Charles R Fuchs	44.77

Over 10,000

Miyoko Boswell	88.60
Marlise Cusick	28.33

Unit 106 2026 Mini-McKenney

As of July 2026

The Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race recognizes ACBL members who earn the most masterpoints in sanctioned club and tournament games within a calendar year. A player is placed in a category based on his/her MP totals at the beginning of a given year. The top 3 Unit 106 players in each category so far in 2026 are listed below. The complete list can be found at <https://web2.acbl.org/as400/mpraces/unit/2026/mm106.htm>.

0 to 5

Maxwell Gong	20.49
Glenn Schachter	10.97
Allan Greene	7.61

5 to 20

Lisa Hayes	8.76
Susan Blickman	8.28
Bob Demaria	7.91

20 to 50

Carla Cherrey	47.54
Rhonda Pekow	37.78
Haritha Indugula	25.88

50 to 100

Kathy Grubb	31.54
Ghazala Nomani	42.33
Jonathan Siegel	35.82

100 to 200

Zafar Nomani	42.33
Barbara Hallahan	40.26
William Migdal	38.09

200 to 300

Kathrina Tamasco	29.78
Jeffrey Whittaker	24.18
Catherine Marks	22.43

300 to 500

Valerie Kazhdan	86.39
Michael Contente	70.13

Kenneth Koneval	43.12
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500 to 1000

Melva Cummings	72.45
Martin Becker	39.44
Ada Cascone	27.30

1000 to 1500

Wally Gebara	109.21
Beth Batastini	94.75
Steve Highfill	71.56

1500 to 2500

Daniele Panayotatos	92.19
Martin Gilbert	72.90
William Whitman	64.81

2500 to 3500

Peter Szabados	159.14
Fred Linnemeyer	143.56
Fred Shubert	122.90

3500 to 5000

Patricia Linnemeyer	196.47
Joseph Pospis	141.44
John Wass	132.50

5000 to 7500

David Katzen	160.99
Martin Singer	125.00
Doree Sobel	76.53

7500 to 10,000

Rena Harris	149.18
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Gregory Rosoff	9.53
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Over 10,000

Miyoko Boswell	137.48
Irem Ozbay	39.96
Marlise Cusick	34.26

2026 Player of the Year Race

As of July 1st

The Unit 106 Player of the Year Competition is based on points awarded at unit-sponsored events over the course of the year - the Annual Brunch, 3 Open Sectionals, and the Spring and Fall Swiss Teams. No other event qualifies.

The top players in each master point category so far this year (Annual Brunch, Spring Sectional, Spring Swiss) are listed below.

Over 2500

Miyoko Bozwell	19.81
Pat Linnemeyer	18.50
Fred Linnemeyer	18.50
David Kuenzler	17.37
Lynn Mackall	14.57
Tod Thorgerson	15.63
Ed Landau	15.63
John Wass	12.88
Martin Singer	12.40
Betty Ann Smith	8.30

Under 2500

Julian Schulman	11.80
Charles Fuchs	7.33
Janet Dunlap	6.91
Steve Highfill	6.91
Dan Benjamin	4.83
Kayoko Nishitani	4.74
Carole Gelfer	4.63
Daniele Panayotatos	4.60
Wally Gebara	4.48
Beth Batastini	3.66

Under 1000

Marina Fradina	2.90
Alessandra Lofaro	2.90
Mary Thurber	2.89
Nikos Panayotatos	2.67
Amal Abouhamad	2.33
William Hans	1.90
Arlene Tais	1.54
Jamie Silverstein	0.75
Paul Weiner	0.72
Martin Becker	0.42

Under 500*

Valerie Kazhdan	5.48
Michael Contene	2.73
Herb Marche	1.90
Deborah Williams	1.90
Audrey Royer	0.95
Maria Madormo	0.92
Judith Szwecki	0.62

Under 300

Tim Byrnes	4.30
Jonathan Siegel	2.40
William Migal	2.19
Marcy White	2.19
Jane Landers	1.31
Carol Larson	1.31
Joan Verdon	0.98
Chris Thorn	0.98
Jane Rosenblum	0.60
Carla Cherrey	0.60

Under 50

Georgine Startz	1.63
Charles Startz	1.63
Maureen Viehmeyer	1.16
Joyce Fabian	1.16
Rhonda Pekow	1.12
Haritha Indugula	1.51
Robin Muscio	0.87
Arthur Muscio	0.87
Polina Feygin	0.65
Dan Fitzpatrick	0.60