



Welcome to our Winter 2017 issue!



NAP FINALISTS

For the first time in recent history, two of our members, **Arthur Keefe** and **Jon Kasdan**, are going to the NAP (North American Pairs) Finals. Arthur and Jon won first place in the District 25 NAP Flight C Stratification.

They have been invited to compete in Philadelphia on Sunday and Monday, March 11 and 12, 2018. The District awards them each a \$700 stipend to cover their expenses and our Club will supplement that by \$300 each.

DIRECTING ACBL TOURNAMENTS



In the future, if you call a director at an ACBL Tournament, you may hear a familiar voice say, "How may I assist you?" **Norm Guivens** served as a Tournament Assistant for the Mansfield Regional Tournament this November.

It is his first step towards becoming a Field Director for the ACBL. **Congrats, Norm!**

BIG RUBY ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to
Ruby Life Master, Jeff Sweeney



Jeff Sweeney has been playing bridge at our Club for over 35 years accumulating lots of Master points, but he didn't go to tournaments. With help from teammates **Ruth Weston**, **Eddie Kelley** and **Peter Griff**, Jeff got all the gold he needed to become a Life Master when his team came in first in the Mansfield Regional Midflight Swiss on Nov. 12.

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to our members who have advanced in status. **Joan Williams** and **Nancy Banton** have advanced to Junior Master; **Maureen McDonnell**, **Marjorie Sullivan**, **Nancy Manzillo** and **Judith Crosby** to Club Master; **Jon Kasdan**, **Elaine Madden**, **Jane Tondorf**, **Gino DiScullo**, **Maureen Westgate**, **Jen Reidy**, **Mitch Blaustein** & **Robert Dutra** to Sectional Master; **Ron Bender**, **Peter Griff**, **Angela Griffin**, **Nancy Mullen**, and **Susanne Osberg** to Regional Master; **Larry Schell** and **David Idell** to Bronze Life Master; **Ken Wirkala**, **Peter Roos** and **Betsy Hines** to Silver Life Master; and **Jeff Sweeney** to Ruby Life Master.



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WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS



Marcia Van Etten



Judi Forti



Larry Schell



Margery Charles



Mitch Blaustein



Marie Radei



Mary Ryan



Jean MacNeill



Nadine Buchmiller



Bonnie Dehner



Ellen Shea



Lois Tankerley



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Gorton & Pat DiSciullo have joined our Board. Chris takes the helm from Jeff Sweeney as president and Pat replaces Nora Schneider as treasurer.

BEGINNERS GAME

Fridays Starting December 1st

Besides our regular Friday Open Game, Hal Merzon will teach a **Beginner Game with lessons** in which only players with under 49 Master Pts are eligible to win points. Everyone, however, is welcome to watch and learn. Look for more mentor games scheduled, starting in February.

SAVE THESE DATES - PARTIES

Saturday, December 16 - a social after the game. Significant others invited. Appetizers & desserts @ no extra \$.

Tuesday, December 19 - sandwiches and other goodies. \$4 extra charge. - Look for sign up sheets.

DOUBLE FUN DAY: Wednesday – Mah Jong

After the regularly scheduled bridge game, we are hosting Mah Jong on Wednesdays. Games will start 1:45ish.

All are welcome.



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Frances Price

We all know Frances Price as the beautiful red headed Aussie who plays with Pat McSweeney, wears cowboy boots with her colorful dresses, and brings her delicious white chocolate chunk brownies (recipe is now on our website) to the Club every time she plays here. Some of us know Frances as the singing thespian who performs at the Footlight Club in Jamaica Plain. But, until now, we hadn't any idea how diverse the interests of this versatile woman are.

As a young woman in the 1980s after graduating law school, Frances worked as a government lawyer. Then came love, marriage, and babies. Although Frances planned to return to her job, life (i.e. babies) got in the way.

Frances started taking bridge lessons at the Northern Suburb Bridge Club in Brisbane, Australia in 2003. At that time she had three children in high school, was working three jobs, chairing a charity ball for 800, and singing in a chamber choir. She hoped bridge might offer a stress free diversion, but she was wrong. Her best friend had started lessons with her but soon quit, leaving Frances to struggle on her own. She quickly acquired a regular partner and was juggling jobs to find time to play twice a week.

In 2008 her husband's job brought them to the US. Gary is a software engineer. He briefly tried bridge but gave it up, finding it too competitive. Frances played at MIT twice a week until she found she liked Puritan Bridge Club better. She played at Puritan until 2011 when Gary and Frances returned to Australia. There, with encouragement from more advanced partners, Frances started playing more conventions and competing in tournaments. The Australian Bridge Federation governs the award of master points in Australia, and those points are not transferable to the ACBL. Thus, acquiring master points toward her life master rank is twice as hard for Frances.

In 2014 Frances returned to the US. Their three children remain in Australia, the youngest being 27. They get home at least once a year. Frances does not know how much longer she will be in the States. We love having her at our Club and hope to have her here for many more years.

Final Notes

On a sad note we said a final farewell to long time members, **Steve Shectman** and **Jerry Twohig**, who recently passed away. The Wednesday morning Ken McNeill lesson always relied on Jerry to keep count on Ken's demonstration hands. We speak of him often and miss him deeply.



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