

TABLE TALK

Unit 361
September 2024

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IN MEMORIAM

9/2023 – 8/2024

Vivian Heggie
Donna Daniel
Warren Garrett
Timothy Watson
Carole Carlson
Eileen Lerman
Julie Nelson
Janet Canfield
Ed Johnson
Arnold Mondrow
Richard Friedman

President's Message

As I write my final President's article, I feel very optimistic about the future of bridge in Denver. The local club games appear to be growing, and our tournaments are doing very well. The pandemic was a major obstacle to the advancement of our favorite game, but it appears we have turned the corner.

Our game cannot thrive without the efforts put forth by club owners, your local bridge board, the District 17 board, the ACBL and the multitude of players who volunteer their time for our enjoyment. The next time you play in a club game or tournament, please take a moment to thank the club owner and/or director who is working to enable you to enjoy your pastime.

If you attend a tournament, let the organizers and volunteers know you appreciate their efforts. This game can only be successful and grow if we have folks who contribute to make the games possible.

That being said, I want to thank all of the people who have made my terms as president a success. The gains we have made in the past few years could not have occurred without the incredible efforts of the Board of Directors. Each and every member has contributed to our accomplishments, and I offer sincere thanks to every one of them.

Current board members are Don Boyarsky, Kathy McMahon, Ed Yosses, Rita Simas, Kathleen Kelly, Susan Marshall, Paul Perkowski and Jay Silberberg. Susan Grauer has donated her time as the attorney for the board, and Jennifer O'Neill is our District 17 representative. Margaret Devere has served as our webmaster for the past several years.

President's Message (continued)

Without each and every one of these members, bridge in Denver would not be as robust as it is. Please join me in acknowledging their contributions to Denver Bridge.

I want to thank all the players in the Denver area who have made my terms as President enjoyable. I will still be present in the bridge world and look forward to seeing you at the table.

Enjoy!

Julie Clark

En Hay reaches 20,000

En was born in An Khe, South Vietnam, where she met her future husband and had three daughters. Once her daughters were grown and married, En decided to find a hobby or two and bridge was one of them.

When the couple moved to Denver in 1990, En had amassed 90 master points—and so began a 34-year bridge odyssey. In 2024, En became the first female Colorado ACBL member to achieve 20,000 masterpoints. She has many other bridge accomplishments, including five Colorado Victory Trophies, over 100 blue and silver ribbon qualifications, and over 30 various Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney wins to her credit.



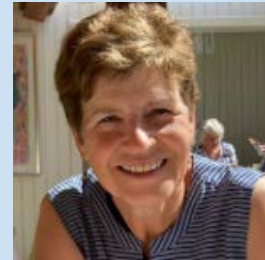
Currently she is the 28th woman on the ACBL Lifetime Top 500 and 153rd among living ACBL members. Needless to say, she's still going strong!

Congratulations to En on all her accomplishments and on becoming a Platinum Masterpoint holder!

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

This year we are recognizing two Volunteers of the Year. Both have provided help that is vitally needed to make our tournaments happen.

Over the past year, **Marion Brum de Barros** has been an outstanding volunteer for all of our tournaments. She is always there on Setup Day, doing whatever is needed, and when she finishes the first task, she reaches out and asks for more work with a smile on her face and a willingness to do anything to help the game run more smoothly.



Carol Gumpert, on the other hand, was a workhorse on the Unit 361 Board—performing both the Secretary and Communications jobs along with overseeing the Iliff Parking Lot. Carol stepped down from the board in 2023, but continued performing the Iliff Parking Lot duties. For the last four plus years, Carol has performed above and beyond, and we thank her.



For these reasons, the Unit 361 Board voted to award Marion and Carol the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award at the November Sectional. Please thank them both for a “Volunteer Job Well Done.”



Fall Open Sectional

Fall is in the air and we hope the 90 degree weather is behind us for the year!

Come Play in Denver's Fall Sectional on November 1-3, 2024. **Lunch for \$5 on Friday and Saturday!**

Open Sectional (Silver Points) held at Iliff School of Theology, 2323 East Iliff Ave, Denver.

Schedule: Two-session pairs games on Friday and Saturday at 10:00 and 2:30 with accommodation for single sessions. Sunday two-session play-through team games starting at 10:00.

IMPORTANT Parking Information: Paid parking is available in many locations that have kiosks. Be sure to have your license plate number and a credit card handy when you get to the kiosk. When you use a kiosk, make sure it is for the lot where you have parked, or you will be ticketed. **It is easier to pay for parking using the ParkMobile App than using kiosks. You can download it to your smartphone from your App Store (no cost).**

If you have a physical limitation, you can park in Lot B directly in front of the Iliff building. Pay at the kiosk near the building entrance.

More parking is available near Iliff School of Theology. Turn west onto East Iliff Ave (from University), go past the parking lots on the right then turn right on Gaylord St. There is kiosk parking in the row of spaces along Gaylord St, Lot 304. Or you can take a quick left into Lot H1 where a volunteer will take \$10 and hand you a voucher to put on your dashboard. They only accept the exact amount.

Lunches: Sunday lunch is included in the team fee. Friday and Saturday you can buy lunch for \$5.

More Info: See the flyer at the end of this document for the **location address, online partnership desk link, and detailed schedule information.**

WE NEED HELP! Looking for a Volunteer Coordinator

Managing our tournaments is a big job, and we are looking for a person to take on the Unit 361 Volunteer Coordinator role. That person will recruit a cadre of bridge players who want to give back to the community and help continue to make our tournaments a success.

The Volunteer Coordinator will recruit volunteers to:

- Help set up/pack up the equipment and supplies, and
- Help with the day-to-day operations during the tournaments. (Do we need to refill coffee? Whoops, out of snacks? Let's add more! We ran out of cups and now someone needs to find more in a crate!)

We have seven major tournaments each year (four Open Sectionals, two 499-er Sectionals, and our week-long Memorial Day Regional Tournament).

The workload has become overwhelming and we need more volunteers to help. Can you find a group of volunteers to share duties--no need for one person to do it all. As we all know, many hands make light work. Thanks in advance for helping us field our Bridge Tournaments throughout the year.

UNIT 361 DIRECTOR INITIATIVE EXTENDED

Unit 361 encourages any unit member to become a qualified tournament director – we always prefer to work with local directors if we can. To that end, for the remainder of 2024 and through 2025, Unit 361 will continue sponsoring a Director Initiative. The unit will reimburse your costs for director course materials and director tests, once the test is passed.

Here is a quick description of the various forms that bridge directing can take, along with information on getting started. If you are interested, [email the president of Unit 361](#) to inform us of your plans, and keep the unit posted as you progress.



What and How

- **Club Director:** Qualified to direct games at any club, to direct Intermediate/Newcomer tournaments, and to direct bridge games on cruises. Materials are available from Baron Barclay. Watch here for online course dates: <https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/director-courses/>. The course fee including test is \$50; test only is \$15. Compensation is by agreement between the parties.
- **Tournament Assistant:** Qualified to be hired by a local tournament organizer to help out at a sectional or regional tournament. People who have passed this test are generally approved to run an Intermediate/Newcomer sectional tournament. There are no materials or training program. The test fee is \$50. For more information about the test, contact Tony Greene: tony.greene@acbl.org. Compensation is by agreement between the parties.
- **Local Sectional Director:** Qualified to run Local Sectional tournaments (a new tournament type). Must be qualified as a Club Director or Tournament Assistant, then pass the Local Sectional Director test. Go here for more information and to register: <https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/director-courses/>. Materials are provided after registration. Compensation is by agreement between the parties.
- **ACBL Tournament Director:** Qualified to direct events at sectional, regional, and national tournaments (depending on experience and seniority). It is not necessary to be a club director first. In Unit 361 (and the rest of the western USA), interested persons should contact Matt Koltnow: matt.koltnow@acbl.org. The applicant must pass a test and an audition, both free. Compensation starts at \$16/hour, and expenses (transportation/mileage and per diem) are covered.

Election for the 2024–2025 Unit Board

Unit 361's election for the 2025–2026 term of the Board of Directors will be held on November 2, 2024 during our fall sectional.

A nominating committee met in order to submit candidates for the upcoming election. The members of this year's committee were Don Boyarsky, Donna Givner, Denise Klein and Mike Crimmins.

There are five positions open for the 2024–2025 Board. The committee believes the candidates listed here are excellent choices to run for the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in running for the board ...

Anyone who would like to run for the Board of Directors can petition the Board to join these candidates on the ballot. A petition signed by at least ten members in good standing in Unit 361 must be submitted to the Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to the election. The deadline for submitting such a petition is October 21, 2023. In the event such a petition is received, paper ballots will be printed with anyone who successfully petitioned to be on the Board and the five candidates listed below. Voting will occur on November 2, 2024. The five people receiving the most votes will be elected to the 2025–2026 Board of Directors.

Candidates

Judith Repp

Upon moving to Colorado 7 years ago and knowing only our two daughters here, what else would a person do but go to ACBL and find the nearest bridge club? The bridge community is a wonderful assortment of like-minded nerds that I treasure. I appreciate the opportunity Bridge affords to 'instantly' meet people in new environments.



As a bridge-playing architect, I love to solve puzzles. Still a practicing architect with graduate degrees in architecture and structural engineering, I find the myriad challenges of bridge to be not unlike those encountered while designing buildings.

On the east coast, I was an avid rower on the Schuylkill River (Boathouse Row) in Philadelphia. Rivers in Colorado are way too rocky for that, so my current 'sport' in Colorado is Bridge!

My non-bridge-playing husband, Chick, and I live in Evergreen with my faithful hiking companion, a dachshund (TBone), and a very independent cat (McPhee).

I hope to give back to the Unit that gave me such a warm welcome upon my arrival and continually provides me with alternating bouts of exhilaration, consternation and self-flagellation that is the game of Bridge.

Greg Kempf

After I retired, I started playing duplicate bridge in 2021, making me a relatively new member of the bridge community. I would classify myself as an advanced beginner, who is working to advance my expertise in the game. I very much enjoy the in-person games at both Denver Metro and Tech Center Bridge Clubs.

I am of the opinion that recruitment of new players and the retention of developing players are essential to the ongoing success of Unit 361. I have many questions, and would offer suggestions, in regard to how the bridge community attracts and keeps the less experienced players interested in the game. I believe that a dynamic and supportive learning atmosphere is essential to the goal of developing these new players.

I also want to become involved in expanding my knowledge in our local bridge club organizations and our regional organization in an effort to understand and address the issues of the larger bridge community.



Kathy McMahon

If elected this will be my 2nd term on the Unit 361 Board of Directors.



During my tenure I have served as the IN (now 499-ers) representative. I felt that as an IN myself this was a perfect position for me. Our unit holds three IN tournaments per year and I have the privilege of chairing those events. There are two IN Sectionals in September and April. There is also an IN Regional held concurrently with the July Open Sectional. Our IN tournaments now include a bridge lesson over the lunch period.

During my tenure I have tried to grow the IN bridge playing population at our clubs as well as at our tournaments. The board voted to increase the mentor program to include players with up to 500 Master Points. This resulted in more people participating in the mentor program. At the request of the INs we are currently trying to provide Swiss Team trainings for INs prior to each tournament in order to prepare them for team events at tournaments.

I look forward to continuing to represent the INs on our Board. I also look forward to hearing from all of the INs regarding how we can assist you and recognize you in your bridge journey. I hope you will reelect me.

Rita Simas

I was recently elected to serve as the Unit 361 Board Treasurer, and I will be asking the Board to vote for me to continue in that role. I have been the Treasurer for a number of non-profit and HOA boards in the last 20 years.

The Board has successfully navigated us thru the COVID and post-COVID periods, and we are looking at ways to enhance the Denver Bridge experience and thank our Unit 361 members on their continued support at our Unit 361 Bridge Tournament events.

I arrived in Denver in 2007 from Los Angeles as part of the Boeing and Lockheed merger of their Rocket programs. I have fallen in love with this city and state, and I have elected to retire here. I have finished remodeling my Sloan's Lake home and look forward to returning to frequent visits to the tables and traveling across the USA to attend National, Regional, and the occasional Sectional tournament.



In addition to playing bridge, I am an active volunteer in various non-profit activities. I collect colorful art and enjoy searching second-hand stores for unique, memorable objects de art and architecture. I share my home with two rescue cats named Sherlock and Cosmo.

Paul Perkowski



Like many, I started playing bridge in college. I had a wonderful teacher who had learned the game from his Grandmother. We played a very old fashioned system - even without Jacoby transfers! Any breach in etiquette was gently admonished with "That would be frowned upon in finer bridge clubs. Fortunately, this isn't one of them."

Fast forward years later and I still love this game. I now have played or studied seemingly every bridge convention under the sun. Just ask if you'd like some advice. And I sincerely hope that our newer members find our club as welcoming as what I received when I started.

I hope to continue to serve on the Board to be of service to our club and an ambassador of the "King of card games."

100 TOP MASTERPOINT HOLDERS



Brad	Moss	26,258	Fred	Herring	5,351	Bill	Beard	3,236
En	Hay	20,089	Debra	Dallas	5,332	Jerry	Newcomb	3,235
David	Caprera	19,835	Nadine	Quigley	5,118	Elisabeth	Hirst	3,211
Allen	Kane	19,631	Jeanne	Achziger	5,109	Thomas	Mangold J	3,196
Anne	Brenner	14,304	Paul	Witonsky	5,038	John	Bugay	3,156
Flo	Newlin	14,298	Donald	Boyarsky	5,019	Julie	Clark	3,150
Anita	Heitler	13,445	Robert	Lupton	4,996	Kathleen	Kelly	3,113
Don	Heitler	12,598	Carolyn	Borus	4,699	Robert	Murphy	3,109
Bruce	Cobb	12,286	Curt	Soloff	4,678	Roger	Miller	3,108
Hachy	Pennell	10,946	Nona	Dale	4,638	Paul	Perkowski	3,029
Val	Covalciuc	10,820	Joan	Curran	4,576	Lori	Beard	3,029
Dom	Di Felice	9,747	Bob	Martin	4,446	Jennifer	O'Neill	3,018
Spencer	Jones	9,106	Karen	Trujillo	4,228	Jerry	Marrs	2,996
Stephen	Linehan	9,091	Robert	Vetter	4,077	Jonathan	Hellman	2,990
Donald	Vancil	9,038	Harriet	Berenbaur	3,971	Sung Mae	Bleck	2,948
Peggy	Ware	8,821	Joe	Jenkins	3,971	Susan	Wheeler	2,914
Skip	Carson	8,378	Jeannene	Dipaolo	3,959	Donna	Givner	2,908
Merrell	Anderson	8,272	Paul	Ossip	3,957	Haisam	Osman	2,867
Dan	Marthaler	8,136	George	Becker	3,954	Jack	Martin	2,842
Bonnie	Smith	7,380	Carol	Ward	3,921	Vincent	Castrigano	2,821
Jerry	Ranney	7,261	Paula	Warren	3,868	John	Osher	2,802
David	Warner	6,890	Harley	Bress	3,866	Carolyn	Newcomb	2,786
Steven	Parker	6,650	Jared	Johnson	3,858	Michael	Shedd	2,783
Frank	Queen	6,319	Mary Anne	Pixley	3,757	Milton	Shioya	2,782
Alice	Kinninghar	6,095	Debra	Hyatt	3,744	Bill	Fox	2,756
Susan	Grauer	6,022	Penelope	Coffman	3,731	Carol	Bertz	2,692
Eric	Swanson	5,825	Roy	Weinstein	3,710	Marilyn	Ballon	2,690
Nancy	Rassbach	5,689	Marilyn	Hughes	3,703	G Steve	Wheeler	2,672
Jeffrey	Holligan	5,626	Richard	Friedman	3,697	James	Dulan	2,645
Pat	Drew	5,563	Sheryl	Siegel	3,645	Nancy	Benedict	2,637
Ernest	Skolnik	5,560	Edward	Yosses	3,579	Greg	Smith	2,629
Jane	Ranney	5,497	Patricia	Miller	3,401	Donna	Barrow	2,574
Charles	Reed	5,487	Richard	Berger	3,348	Jon	Brandon	2,568
			Margaret	Devere	3,261			

Unit 361 Website

In case you weren't aware, Unit 361 has a website. You can go to the website for info on unit tournaments, tournament results, local clubs, local teachers, and various other items that just might perhaps interest you.

If you haven't looked at it in a while, check it out at www.denverbridge.org. And here's a QR code in case you want to go that route.



UNIT 361 EIGHT-MONTH FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY 1 to AUGUST 31, 2024

TOURNAMENT INCOME

- January	\$12,629
- March	\$13,623
- I/N Spring	\$3,233
- Regional	\$89,472
- July	\$6,557
- July I/N Regional	\$12,900

OTHER INCOME

\$4,599

TOTAL INCOME

\$143,013

TOURNAMENT EXPENSES

- January	\$11,376
- March	\$11,506
- I/N Spring	\$1,867
- Regional	\$82,008
- July	\$9,842
- July I/N Regional	\$11,796

OTHER EXPENSES

\$5,231

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$133,625

NET (INCOME LESS EXPENSES)

\$9,388

OTHER INCOME (membership dues, gifts, etc.)

OTHER EXPENSES (supplies, education, charity, table storage, etc)

All prior year Tournament expenses included herein

DENVER UNIT 361 FALL SECTIONAL

November 1–3, 2024

Iliff School of Theology, 2323 E Iliff Avenue, Denver, CO

www.denverbridge.org

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024

10:00 AM & 2:30 PM

10:00 AM & 2:30 PM

Lunch available for purchase (\$5 cash or check)

Stratified Non-Life Master Single Sessions
(NLM) Pairs

Open Stratified Pairs Two-Session Event
(Single Sessions Allowed)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

2:15 PM

10:00 AM & 2:30 PM

10:00 AM & 2:30 PM

Lunch available for purchase (\$5 cash or check)

ANNUAL UNIT MEETING

Stratified NLM Pairs Single Sessions

Open Stratified Pairs Two-Session Event
(Single Sessions Allowed)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

10:00 AM and TBD

Lunch provided with team entry

Bracketed Teams Two-Session Play-Through

NLM Pairs

0–500 masterpoints. No Life Masters. No player over 500 masterpoints.

All Open and NLM Pairs

Three stratifications based on average pair masterpoints and attendance, at Director's discretion.

Open Pairs Stratification

0–<1000; 1000–<3000; 3000+

Bracketed Teams

Bracketed by average masterpoints. Teams play only teams in their bracket. Brackets may be handicapped.

Tournament Chair

Kathleen Kelly Sectional@DenverBridge.org

Partnerships

Susan Grauer Partners@DenverBridge.org

Online Partnership Desk:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/DenverOnlinePartnershipDesk>

Tournament Director

Theresa Venhuis

Entry Fees: \$14 per session, \$152 per Sunday team; credit card only

ACBL/ABA membership required (\$4 fee if lapsed)

Free play for ACBL members with 0-5 masterpoints. ACBL youth and junior (age 25 and under) discount.

Scan QR code for
Online Partnership Desk



Denver Unit 361 Sanction Number 2411308

Scent-free event – Please be considerate of your fellow players

NO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION OR DRUGS ALLOWED