

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

MAY 2026 Newsletter



President's Message...

Hello "Bridge-Mates"...

There is greater than a 90% chance of you earning silver master points this month. How? Play in the Swiss Team event at our Annual Spring Sectional May 29-31 at the Shelly Studio in Latham. What is a Swiss Team game? Please see the article in this newsletter. Briefly, it is seven rounds played against one other team per round with silver master points awarded for winning or tying each round. And there is a free lunch that Sunday.

Friday and Saturday are traditional match point games. If you are part of the 40% of our membership with less than 100 master points, play in both the morning and afternoon games and you are comped for the afternoon game. That is a three-day saving of \$39. More than pays for you driving to Latham.

Finally, with advance planning make sure your calendar is marked for our annual awards lunch and bridge game on Sunday, June 14 – Flag Day. Awards ceremony followed by lunch and a regular match point game in the afternoon.

I hope you are enjoying reading about one board member per month. This month we have recognized our publicity chair Diane Palmer.

John Templin

518-210-7760

UNIT 115 Capital District

SAVE the DATE

SPRING 2026 Sectional



6 British American Blvd. Suite
103-D
Latham, NY
(518)-424-8240

10 minutes West of
I-87 Northway Exits 3&6

Friday-Saturday May 29-30

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 am & 2:30 pm

Stratified 499* Pairs 10:00 am & 2:30 pm

*No player with more than 499 MPs

Sunday May 31

Stratified Open Swiss Teams

Two Session play-through 10:00am START

FREE Lunch provided halfway through

Tournament Chair

Dan DiTursi
(518) 892-3546
ditursi@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

Dave Buchyn
(678) 644-7143
dfbuchyn@live.com

Director in Charge

Rob Neuhart

**Strats for Open Games
Unlimited/3000/1000***

**Strats for 499 Games
499/199/99**

*Subject to change based on
attendance.

All games will be stratified by
Pair/Team Average.

Free snacks & beverages
provided throughout the
weekend.

Under 100 MPs – Buy one
entry, second session on same
day is free.

SILVER POINTS !

All Pair Games are
\$13/player

Swiss Teams are
\$104/team

**Credit Card
Preferred**

ACBL membership
required. \$4 additional
per person per session
for lapsed ACBL
members.

Guest Member Link:

[http://my.acbl.org/
membership/join?
guest=X&club=270942
&teacher=1881116](http://my.acbl.org/membership/join?guest=X&club=270942&teacher=1881116)

Basics of a Swiss Team Event:

In a Swiss Teams game, 4-member teams play a series of short rounds against opposing teams. Teams earn Victory Points (VPs) based on International Match Points (IMPs) for each match, providing a fair, dynamic ranking system where top teams play each other as the event progresses. Twenty Victory Points are split between the opposing teams each round. In the case of a tie, both teams get 10 VPs. Teams are stratified by the average of the team's MPs.

Core Components of Swiss Teams

- **Structure:** Played with teams of four (two pairs: N-S and E-W).
- **Pairing:** First round is random; subsequent rounds pair teams with similar scoring records (winners vs. winners).
- **Scoring:** Matches are scored using International Match Points (IMPs) converted to Victory Points (VPs).
- **Length:** Typically 7 rounds of 6 boards each.
- **Objective:** To maintain high performance to stay in the top bracket. If a team wins, they rise; if they lose, they fall, ensuring closely matched competition.

Key Strategy Tips

- **IMP Strategy:** Focus on bidding and making game contracts rather than trying for overtricks.
- **Defense:** Be cautious; avoid giving away extra tricks, as penalties are heavy in IMP scoring.
- **Sacrifices:** Only sacrifice if you are sure to go down less than the opponent's game value.
- **Safety:** Choose safe lines of play as declarer to ensure the contract, particularly in vulnerable positions.

Entry Fee Increase

All Shelly Studio Face-to-Face games will be **\$10** per session and snacks will be provided.

Notes to Calendar

Grassroots Fund Games May 4, 7, 25 & 28

Lots of extra points

STAC Week May 11 - 16

Silver points

May 14th game starts at 12 noon!

& Free Lesson at 11:30 AM

Star Dust games May 18 - 21

Awards 25% Gold 75% Black

Congratulations Recent Rank Achievers!

Michael J. Sattinger	Gold Life Master
Mary Ellen Obrien	Junior Master
Arleen Brilliant	Junior Master
Michael Slezak	Junior Master

Upcoming Events:

May 17-21 District 3 Summer Regional Hotel
Woodbridge, Iselin, NJ

May 22-24 Unit 175 VBA Sectional Williston, VT

**May 29-31 Unit 115 Spring Sectional Shelly
Studio**

June 8-12 District 4 Finger Lakes Regional Penn Yan,
NY

**June 14 Unit 115 Awards Ceremony & game,
Shelly Studio**

July 8-19 NABC Minneapolis [website](#)

Sep 25-27 Unit 115 Fall Sectional Shelly Studio

Oct 4-7 District 3 Fall Regional Poughkeepsie

2026

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF 11:30AM SS 6:30PM Open	SS lesson 10:30-12:30 CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM	LG 12:00PM Open	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
STAC WEEK SILVER points	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF 11:30AM SS 6:30PM Open	SS lesson 10:30-12:30 CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM	LG 12:00PM Open	SS 11:30AM Free Lesson SS 12 NOON Open Online BBO 7:10PM		Avila 12:00pm Open STAC SS Play of the Hand Course 12:30-2:30
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
STAR DUST games 25% GOLD	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF 11:30AM SS 6:30PM Open	CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM	LG 12:00PM Open	SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		Avila 12:00pm Open CC SS Play of the Hand Course 12:30-2:30
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF 11:30AM SS 6:30PM Open	SS lesson 10:30-12:30 CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM	LG 12:00PM Open	SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM	SPRING PAIRS 10:00 & 2:30	SECTIONAL PAIRS 10:00 & 2:30
31 SWISS TEAMS 10:00 AM start playthrough with lunch provided	GF = Glens Falls Senior Center Director Terry Bentley	CP = Clifton Park Senior Center Director Terry Bentley	LG = Lake George Holiday Inn Director Terry Bentley	SS = Shelly Studio Director Diana Lack	Online Game BBO vacb270942 Dir Rob Neuhart Tues Dir Diana Lack Thurs	

Diane Palmer

Unit 115 Publicity Chair

I grew up in the small town of Gouverneur in northern New York. We always played cards; my dad taught us Penny Poker, but my mom insisted that I learn to play bridge. Married after a year of college and moved to Schenectady where my then husband was a junior at Union College. I played poker at his fraternity, often winning money. General Electric hired me and we played Pinochle at lunchtime.

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public and Environmental Health from SUNY Empire State College. I worked at HVCC, Naylor Dana Cancer Research Center in Westchester County and General Electric,

At GE's Power System University, I taught field engineers OSHA's construction courses and GE's environmental safety programs. Then GE sent me around the world to train locally employed engineers on GE's Health & Safety Programs.

During my last few years, I was involved with GE's Partnership with OSHA's Volunteer Protection Programs (VPP) to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all GE employees. During my tenure, GE Schenectady, GE Power Systems University and GE Corporate Headquarters in Fairfield CT. were awarded VPP Star status. Today, more than 100 U.S. GE sites have attained VPP Star status.



After retiring I took Audrey Grant's Duplicate Bridge Course while in Lawrence, Kansas, and became more serious about Duplicate Bridge.

I have three grown children and seven grandchildren, traveling on holidays to out-of-state locations where they live.

I enjoy gardening and am a member of Sustainable Saratoga which focuses on recycling.

UNIT 115 Face-to-Face Games...

Avila Retirement Community

100 White Pine Drive, Albany

Saturday 12:00 noon - Game Dates

May 16 STAC

May 23 Club Championship

June 6 & 27 NAOP

Clifton Park Duplicate Bridge

Senior Center, 6 Clifton Common Blvd

Tuesday 11:30 AM

Glens Falls Duplicate Bridge

Senior Center, 380 Glen St.

Monday 11:30 AM

Lake George Duplicate Bridge

Holiday Inn, 99 Canada Street.

Wednesday 12:00 noon.

Shelly Studio Duplicate Bridge

6 British American Blvd

Monday 11:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Thursday 11:30 AM

Classes by Diana Lack

Bridge Play of the Hand Course

Course Overview

Enhance your skills as a Bridge declarer by enrolling in the *Play of the Hand Course*. This program is designed to provide players of all levels with practical strategies for successful contract play. Across eight focused lessons, you will learn how to create and implement effective plans that maximize your chances of fulfilling your contracts. \$80 for eight two hour lessons.

Key Topics Covered

- Planning your play effectively
- Developing additional tricks
- Eliminating losers from your hand
- Identifying and avoiding dangerous opponents
- Managing entries between hands
- Integrating the above skills for cohesive play

Class Schedule

Classes are held on Saturdays,
from 12:30 to 2:30 PM.

Eddie Kantar Bridge Lessons

Course Overview

Enhance your Bridge skills by enrolling in a new series of lessons. This program is tailored for advancing players and focuses on practical strategies for bidding, playing, and defending contracts. The lessons cover a wide range of topics to help improve your overall game. Cost is \$10 per week for two hour lessons.

Next Topics Covered

- **Placing the Opponent's Honors**
- **Discarding**
- **Responding to a Takeout Double**
- **Common Errors in Bidding, Play & Defense**
- **Defense - Counting the Opponent's Tricks**
- **Signaling vs. Suit Contracts**
- **Modern Uses of the Cue Bid**
- **Deception (by Declarer)**
- **Opening Leads vs. Suit Contracts**
- **To Finesse or Not to Finesse - Part I**
- **More Techniques of Finessing - Part II**
- **Leads vs. Notrump Contracts**
- **Slam Bidding at Suit Contracts**
- **Slam Bidding at Notrump Contracts**
- **Planning a Strip and End Play**
- **Third Hand Play**
- **The Jacoby Transfer**

Class Schedule

Classes are held Tuesdays from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Please note there will be no class Tuesday, May 19, 2026 as I will be working at the D3 Regional.

Need a Partner for Bridge Games?

Diana Lack – 518-424-8240

Monday & Thursday - Shelly Studio, Latham

Terry Bentley – 518-796-2481

Tuesday - Clifton Park Senior Center

Wednesday - Lake George Holiday Inn

Rhoda Kratenstein – 561-252-0517

Saturday - AVILA Retirement Community

Albany

Unit Officers

John Templin, Jr., President

John Barnes, Vice President

Andrea Campbell, Secretary

Joanne Schlang, Treasurer

