



# THE BRIDGE TEACHER

## FYI –

Hope everyone has had a Happy Holiday Season. Here are some things you need to know for 2006 ...



### ◆ Funded School Program

Success plus budget cuts require that we make some changes in 2006. See page 2 for more information.

### ◆ Mini-Lessons

You've told us through the ACBL online surveys that you want more mini-lessons. By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have access to a dozen lessons submitted by our NABC Celebrity Speakers. Look for the link at [www.acbl.org/teachers/materials.html](http://www.acbl.org/teachers/materials.html).

### ◆ New "Play" Course

Thank you Pat Harrington! Early in 2006 a new "Play" course called "Major Raises 1" will be published. The ACBL will again offer a teacher manual for free download from the ACBL web site and a deck of E-Z Deal cards. Watch for this treat and plan to teach this course next year.

### ◆ E-Mail Addresses

If we have your current e-mail address, you should be receiving our Marketing Matters e-newsletter. If you aren't, please send an update. MM contains information of interest and value to teachers and is sent each month. Don't miss it!

### ◆ [www.bridgeschool.com](http://www.bridgeschool.com)

This is the web site for ACBL Junior players. If you haven't taken a look, please do. We think you'll like what you see.



## Buckman Declares 2006 the Year of the Teacher

2006 has been named the Year of the Teacher by Harriette Buckman, 2006 ACBL President. She feels it's time for the spotlight to be centered on the people who teach the game, instill a love of the game and help to bring new players and members through the doors into our clubs and tournaments.

As she travels the tournaments in ACBL-land, Buckman has announced that she will host dinners for teachers and Unit and District Education Liaisons (UELs and DELs) to which you will be invited. "Admission" to the dinner will be a printed teaching tip to share with everyone else. The topic could be classroom management, recruitment, introducing students to duplicate, or any of the myriad teaching topics having to do with bidding, play or defense. What works for you? What would you like to share with other teachers? It is Buckman's vision that, at the end of the year, all of your tips will go into a book titled "The Best from ACBL's Teachers."

Look for information in your unit and district newsletters to find out when our 2006 ACBL President will visit your area. Teachers will be contacted by UELs or DELs so they can reserve a place at Buckman's dinner to celebrate teachers.

This is our year; let's make the most of it!

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# GET READY FOR 2006

## IDENTIFYING YOUR GOALS

Start your year off right by using this checklist to help identify your goals when starting classes.

### 1. Number of Classes

- A. How much time does each class take?
  - 1. Pre-class preparation
  - 2. Transportation
  - 3. Clean-up
  - 4. Actual class time
- B. How much time do you have to give to this endeavor?

### 2. Number of Students per Class

- A. Take into consideration the amount of time it takes to prepare the material for a class. The larger the class, the more hands you must pre-deal. (E-Z Deal Cards can be used but consider the initial cost.)
- B. How many students do you need to make the amount of money you want to earn?

### 3. Hourly Rate of Pay

- A. All of the time you will spend on each class, as identified in question #1, must be considered.
- B. What expenses will you have?
  - 1. Advertising
  - 2. Site Rental Fee
  - 3. Books
  - 4. Refreshments
  - 5. Mailing Costs
  - 6. Graduation Party
  - 7. Transportation

### 4. Age Range of Students

- A. Have you had any experience teaching the age group you are interested in?
- B. Are you free at the time of day best-suited for the age group you are interested in? (For example, Senior classes are generally offered during the day.)

### 5. Bridge Knowledge of Students

- A. Consider that some students may never have played any card games.
- B. Consider that the language of bridge may be a foreign language to beginning students.
- C. What do you expect?

### 6. Time Your Students Are Expected to Spend on Bridge Between Classes

- A. How much time do you expect them to spend?
- B. How much available time do they have?
- C. Are they willing to spend more time than class time on bridge?

### 7. Team-Teaching or Alone

- A. If you teach with a partner-
  - 1. Division of responsibilities?
  - 2. Sharing of Profits?
- B. If you should teach alone-
  - 1. How will you arrange for a substitute if an emergency keeps you from teaching a class?
  - 2. How will you handle make-up lessons?

## ABTA ANNUAL CONVENTION

The best form of continuing education available for bridge teachers is the ABTA (American Bridge Teachers' Association) Annual Seminar and Business Meeting. This year it takes place in Chicago (the home of 2006 ACBL President Harriette Buckman) prior to the Summer NABC and it promises to offer teachers another fabulous experience. You can get more information (and join or renew your membership) at [www.abtahome.com](http://www.abtahome.com). Plan now to be in Chicago this summer.

## 2006 NABCs – CONTINUING EDUCATION

There are three outstanding NABCs this year and many of you will have to choose. If you can't be in Chicago this summer, remember that there are continuing education opportunities at all NABCs. Check the NABC web sites for more details.

## FUNDED SCHOOL PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2006

The funded school program, sponsored by the ACBL and the ACBL Educational Foundation, has been very successful and continues to grow. Success plus budget cuts require that we make a few changes for 2006.

ACBL will be supplying "Bidding" (Club Series) texts to all classes fifth grade level and higher. Teachers who want to use other materials can do so but will have to provide them. Classes below fifth grade will receive one copy of Jude Goodwin's "Teach Me To Play" booklet to use for classroom exercises.

The funding for this program was intended as seed money to help get bridge lessons into schools. Start talking to your schools and your units about providing some funding in case further budget cuts become necessary.



# PLAY AND LEARN

by Pat Harrington

*Pat Harrington is the author of the "Play and Learn" supplies for bridge teachers and the author of a cute article that ran in the March 1995 Bridge Teacher about a game you can play with your students. Here's the article. Give this a try. Your students will love it....*

Did you even play the Dictionary Game? The moderator for each round finds a word in the dictionary that the other players will not recognize. Then each player makes up a definition that suits the word. The moderator reads these along with the real definition. A player scores points for guessing the right definition or for having someone else choose the definition he invented. The game is fun but finding unknown words can be tedious. In 1984, Gameworks Creations made it a lot easier when they put out *Balderdash*, a boxed version of the dictionary game. If you enjoy games, give it a try.

My husband, Paul, and I created our own version of Bridge Balderdash for the holiday party at our bridge club. For each word listed below, one of the three listed definitions is correct (honest). See how well you do.

1. Moysian fit
  - a.) At the 1950 Spring Nationals, an expert bridge player named Alphonse Moyse got so furious at his partner for passing a forcing bid that he threw a fit that is still remember to this day.
  - b.) When you play in a 4-3 trump fit, you play in a Moysian fit.
  - c.) When your partnership has eight-card fits in two different suits, you have a Moysian fit.
2. Smith Convention
  - a.) A convention for cheating at rubber bridge. When you pick up a horrible hand with no card higher than the nine, you say, "I have twelve cards" and your partner immediately says "I have fourteen" so you can throw the hand in for a redeal in the hope of getting better cards next time.
  - b.) Another name for the ACBL Fall NABCs which were originally held at the Smith Convention Center in Asbury Park, New Jersey.
  - c.) A convention used after using Blackwood. 6NT asks for queens.

3. bumblepuppy
  - a.) A bad play that works.
  - b.) An outdated derogatory term for a bad player.
  - c.) A small card in clubs.
4. Polish Pass
  - a.) A pass out of turn.
  - b.) A pass of partner's forcing bid.
  - c.) A bidding system where a player passes with an opening hand and bids with less than opening strength.
5. dumb bidder
  - a.) A board placed in the middle of the table so players can point to their bids.
  - b.) A term for a player who declares and defends well but doesn't have a clue about how to bid.
  - c.) A player who makes a conventional bid (such as a transfer) to get his partner to declare the hand is referred to as the dumb bidder.
6. cudgels
  - a.) A card game that was a predecessor of bridge.
  - b.) Grouchy opponents.
  - c.) Another name for the club suit.
7. coat cards
  - a.) The cards that wear clothes – kings, queens and jacks.
  - b.) Washable plastic-coated cards.
  - c.) The top and bottom cards of a sequence are called coat cards.

## **Answers at the bottom of page.**

I chose some examples that might even stump you bridge teachers. Did I succeed? For your students, you might try your hand at creating definitions for bridge slang terms such as rewind, stiff king, hook, tap, frigid, cold bottom and peter. Our players had a lot of fun with the game, hooting at the definitions they thought were wrong and cheering for the definitions they liked. They often hooted at all three choices! (Of course, it didn't hurt that we'd served wine at the party.)

All of these terms can be found in the new sixth edition of *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*. A copy belongs on every bridge teacher's bookshelf. The book is available from the ACBL for the member price of \$49.46.

## **ANSWERS:**

1-b; 2-a; 3-b; 4-c; 5-a; 6-c; 7-a.

# SURF the BRIDGE SITES with CAITLIN

by Ellen 'Caitlin' Pomer



(Caitlin is the founder of the largest online bridge school, the Bridge Forum – [www.bridge-forum.com](http://www.bridge-forum.com))

With many of us soon to face the rigors of winter months, teaching online is a tantalizing option. It also can make life easier for many of our

clients, such as those who have to travel far distances for live lessons, parents with babes and toddlers and many of our seniors who are not always mobile, particularly during the evening hours.

With so many online playing sites to choose from, which are the really teacher-student friendly places to check out? Let's start with Bridge Base Online (BBO), a free site which has a 'Partnership Bidding' facility where teacher and student can practice bidding. The hands can be random or set to be constrained by HCP and designated distribution. One can set the program so that opponents pass throughout or invite competitive bidding. For the latter the computerized program GIB can be your opponents. Homework may include having your student use 'partnership bidding' with GIB as partner. Lastly, in this mode, the teacher can upload specific hands by using the 'movie' button on the toolbar.

According to BBO, GIB, developed by Mathew Ginsberg and named after him – Ginsberg's Intelligent Bridge Player – may sometimes make "silly mistakes, but overall its play is strong enough to challenge even experts." One can purchase a GIB license for unlimited use by one player at the same computer with the currency used on that site, Bridge Base Dollars (BB\$) or for as little as \$1 a week or \$3 a month.

Another grand plus for BBO is its teaching mode opportunities. The teacher can sit in any and all seats, thus facilitating private lessons (where the teacher sits in 3 seats and the student in 1). Regardless of where teachers sit, they can see all four hands. In teaching mode, pre-dealt hands with specific parameters can be used or specific hands uploaded by the teacher, ensuring that the deals played will match the topic at hand.

On Swan ([www.swangames.com](http://www.swangames.com)) GIB is also available, so you and your student can have intelligent opponents. There is no cost on Swan for the

use of this program and regular play is free while there is a fee for tournaments. Swan and BBO share another bonus for students. On Swan one can watch many WBF events on vugraph while on BBO there are innumerable vugraphs of world, European, various national championships, NABCs and more! Such events watched together by student and teacher can make for some exciting lessons.

Swan Games has a terrific 'Bidding Practice' option. Here one can select hand parameters where you control suit length, HCP, distribution, specific cards and vulnerability. While there are pre-dealt hands targeting weak two openers, slam bidding, major and minor fits, notrump opening practice and more, the teacher can also create specific boards to match the lesson. Laila Leonhardt of Swan ensures all such options are well explained with diagrams: Go to [www.swangames.com/main/SupportCenter/PracticeTables.html](http://www.swangames.com/main/SupportCenter/PracticeTables.html).

Word from Bridgeperfect ([www.bridgeperfect.com](http://www.bridgeperfect.com)), a site that sees itself as the equivalent of a driving range for bridge players, is that its database of more than 85,000 boards covers all known techniques and critical situations found in bridge. Because boards are grouped into different types of techniques, so that one can work on a particular weak area, it is ideal for teachers and students. All boards are also divided into five different levels of difficulties, thus allowing the teacher to tailor not only declarer technique, defense, bidding and conventions, but to provide hands that are at an appropriate learning level for the student. Bridgeperfect also has the ability to allow teachers to submit their hands for their students to play, a great teaching tool.

All three sites discussed thus far easily lend themselves to group lessons. While four students can play set hands, you and perhaps more students can be in what is traditionally known as 'kibitz' mode. Here, however, it depends on the site whether the teacher can talk directly to students during the bidding and play.

OKbridge has practice mode, where random hands come up and the teacher serving the table can see all the hands and play as many directions as need be. This function keeps many teachers on OKbridge busy, particularly the Fireside and Bridge

Forum groups which run bidding practices regularly. Bridge Club Live ([www.bridgeclublive.com](http://www.bridgeclublive.com)) and WorldWinner e-bridge ([www.worldwinner.com](http://www.worldwinner.com)) both have social rooms, non-rated with random hands.

Almost all sites can utilize voice functions. At Swan, there is an official channel for commentary used during broadcasts and by partnering federations, but as with all sites today, a teacher and student can hook into any same voice system — such as the popular Skype — to make the experience that much more immediate and personal.

Given the fierce competition among online bridge sites — with many players sticking to their familiar Yahoo or Microsoft MSN ‘homes’ — it will not be surprising to see major sites vie more and more for the teacher-student population. Let’s revisit this topic in a number of months. In the next installment, we will take a look at software that can aid the teacher-student relationship.

## **The Business of Bridge**

### **One Shot Deals**



*by Lynn Berg*

I live in a retirement and resort area. It’s hard to get players to commit for lesson series. But a chance request from a local bridge player this fall has led me to another

approach to attract students. As I was publicizing a basic play class, one of the players asked me if I would offer a series on Two over One. I replied, “That’s not a course—that’s a workshop.” And with those few words, a new service for our local players was born.

I said I would offer a 2½-hour workshop on Two over One if at least 12 players signed up. I gave the responsibility for recruiting the participants to the woman who wanted the class. We announced the class about a month ahead of time and posted a signup sheet. On the day, I had 33 students who paid \$10 each for the class and handouts.

I prepared my own handouts for the class: one or two pages each on 1NT forcing, the limitations and implications of 2/1 game force bids, when 2/1 does not apply and Jacoby 2NT. We also took a look at splinter bids.

There was very little lecturing. I introduced each aspect briefly, and then called the cards so the same hand could be played at every table simultaneously. With little discussion, I allowed about nine minutes for play of the hand and a little local discussion. Then we went over the hand together, discussing bidding, play and defense.

We had time for seven hands in the two-plus hours. Before the time was up, I had requests for workshops on slam bidding and on doubles. These will follow the same format. I immediately started collecting hands for the new topics.

In addition to these intermediate-to-advanced topics, I also plan to offer workshops for the 0 to 300 crowd. I’ll use the great Easybridge! Material developed by Edith McMullin. The workshop packets come compete with hands and handouts.

I try to come up with new ideas to attract former students back to new materials and also so I won’t get bored by repetition. In this case, I took my cue from a player’s inquiry. Although I had offered the basic workshops in conjunction with Easybridge!, it hadn’t occurred to me to use them on their own until I was looking for a way to attract more levels of players to these one shot deals.



## **Check it out!**

Here are some links to other sites that teachers will appreciate:

### **Great Bridge Links**

[www.greatbridgelinks.com](http://www.greatbridgelinks.com)

### **Michael Nistler**

[www.bridgehands.com](http://www.bridgehands.com)

### **Richard Pavlicek**

[www.rpbridge.net/rpbr.htm](http://www.rpbridge.net/rpbr.htm)

### **Deep Finesse**

[www.deepfinesse.com/description.html](http://www.deepfinesse.com/description.html)

### **Gary King**

[www.bridgecompanion.com/](http://www.bridgecompanion.com/)

### **Karen Walker**

[www.prairienet.org/bridge/](http://www.prairienet.org/bridge/)

# STAR TEACHERS



**SUSAN CARR** (Sherborn MA) has been teaching bridge for almost twelve years. After retiring from her position at Harvard Business School, she took the TAP from Pat Harrington and that got her started. Susan had a teaching career years earlier when she taught high school business, accounting and math for 16 years at Newbury College in Boston. But teaching Bridge, says Susan, is the best of any subject! She learned to play the game while raising five children and attending tournaments when possible. Her first bridge teaching assignment was for the Cavendish Club of Boston, where she continued for seven plus years with students ranging from young adults to senior citizens who were very motivated as well as very enjoyable people. Susan is happy to say that the IN Program has been a big incentive for her students and many have started to attend tournaments and win master points.

**TIP:** Susan says that her students have brought a lot of enthusiasm to her bridge classes and everyone has a good time. It's important for the classes to be fun.

**JEAN REAVES** (Auburn AL) became interested in bridge while living in Alexandria, Egypt in the 80's where her husband, Carl, was on a job assignment. The International Women's Club through the U. S. Embassy sponsored various interest groups for its members. There were three groups: ACOL, Standard American or potluck. Jean was designated to lead the grouping learning "all about Standard American." She began playing duplicate shortly before leaving Egypt and began a "learn and play" group back in the states. She has been playing, teaching AND studying ever since and loving it! Jean's classes have included students from the university level to the Elderhostel level, including two of her former professors. Currently, she has two ongoing "learn and play" classes consisting of 26 ladies meeting weekly in her downstairs game room. Most have joined ACBL, all are playing with friends and several are participating in Auburn's only sanctioned game. Thanks to the Montgomery Duplicate Bridge Club and Unit 10 officers led by Jerri Taylor and Clair Chisler, Jean has been able to keep classes going until participants feel comfortable about trying duplicate.



**TIP:** If you are in an isolated area, recruit a buddy to help make it fun. Jean is a one-man operation in Auburn, and her husband Carl helps her with the refreshments, the scoring, sweeping and making the boards for classes. They are having a ball!

**KATHY ROLFE** (Lake Winnebago MO) learned to play bridge when her mother ran a class as a fund-raiser for her church. She played lots of social bridge until she decided to work to promote the game to a wider audience. Rolfe is a Professional Engineer and a Certified Quality Engineer who works as a Quality Assurance Manager for Torotel Products on a flexible, part-time basis. She is a widow with two sons, both of whom play bridge. Rolfe took the TAP in 2001 and began working with a teacher in the gifted and talented program in the Lee's Summit, MO School District. Her younger son Paul, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, was her guinea pig and Rolfe taught him to play using the Club series over Christmas break. She began teaching early in 2002 and also began playing duplicate. By 2004, she had built her school program to 101 participants, having added three new schools and four new teachers. On her own, Rolfe has developed a lot of teaching aids to keep her students focused and interested. Every spring since 2002, Rolfe's students have participated in the Instant Matchpoint Scholarship competition. By 2004, she had 22 tables in play! And her students have always finished in the top ten, finishing as high as 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2005. Rolfe is hoping that 2006 will be their year to be #1!



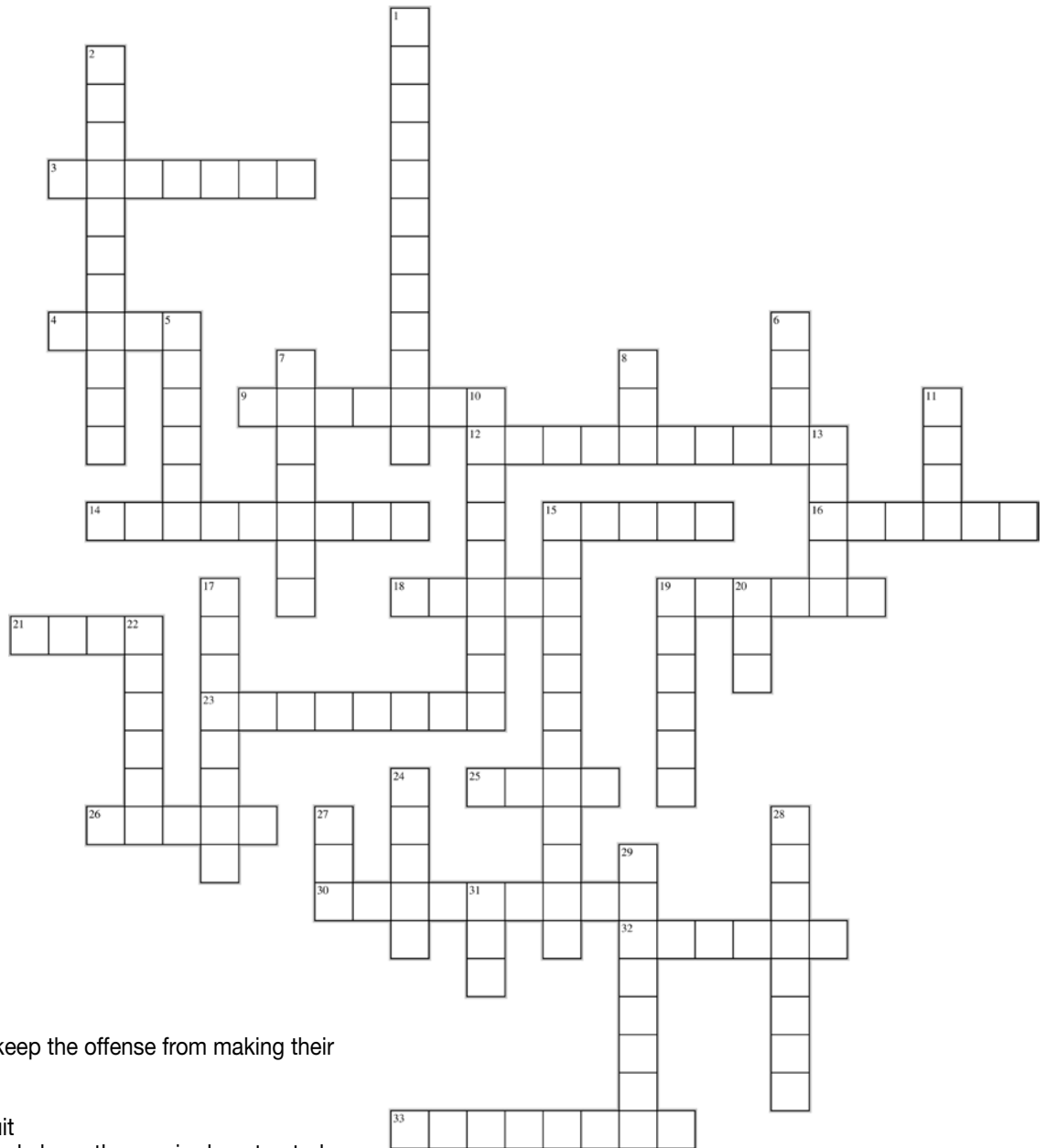
**TIP:** Always make your class fun and be willing to make fun of yourself in the process.

See Kathy's school break tip — her Bridgeword puzzle — on page 7.

# BRIDGEWORD

(Answers to BRIDGEWORD on page 8)

Thanks to teacher Kathy Rolfe for letting us use her crossword puzzle.



by Kathy Rolfe

## Across

- 3 pair of players trying to keep the offense from making their contract
- 4 worth three points
- 9 highest ranking minor suit
- 12 extra tricks taken over and above the required contracted tricks
- 14 only one card in suit
- 15 person holding the hand opposite the declarer
- 16 first person to make a bid other than pass
- 18 worth 2 points
- 19 highest ranking major suit
- 21 no cards in a suit
- 23 minimum value of a hand to make an opening bid (usually)
- 25 grand or small means one side has contracted to take either all the tricks or all but one of the tricks
- 26 13 in a deal, 1 card from each player is in it
- 30 contract bid below game
- 32 could mean — “you can’t make that contract.”
- 33 shape of the hand with no voids, no singletons, and at most 1 doubleton

## Down

- 1 type of points given for extra length in a suit
- 2 amount by which contract was missed
- 5 type of fit with 8 or more cards in a major suit in the combined partner’s hands, usually want that fit to determine the trump suit
- 6 lowest face card in a suit, valued at one point

- 7 minimum value of a hand required to open 1Notrump
- 8 golden game worth 100 points plus game bonus
- 10 only two cards in a suit
- 11 same meaning as going set, e.g. “You’re \_\_\_\_ by 3.”, meaning you were unable to make your contract, missing by 3 tricks.
- 13 points earned by the play of the hand
- 15 one of the 4 suits or notrump
- 17 last bid prior to 3 consecutive passes
- 19 any two or more consecutive cards in the same suit, usually used in reference to high cards — example, K, Q, J of spades would be a \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 highest face card in the suit, valued at 4 points
- 22 first person to make any bid including pass
- 24 synonym for dummy, as in “you’re on the \_\_\_\_\_”, meaning you took the trick in the dummy and must lead from there.
- 27 high card points (abr.)
- 28 first player from the offense to mention the denomination at which the contract is played
- 29 one meaning — “I can too make my bid.”
- 31 verb, meaning to not make the contract, e.g. “We went \_\_\_\_.” “We \_\_\_\_ you 2 tricks.”



**ARLETTE KURTZ  
SCHUTTE  
(1938 – 2005)**

Arlette Schutte, one of ACBL's original TAP (Teacher Accreditation Program) Trainers died in Houston TX on Sept. 19 surrounded by three lifelong friends after a short battle with bone cancer.

Arlette Schutte was a pioneer in the ACBL Education Program. One of the original five TAP Trainers, she was responsible for accrediting hundreds of teachers in the 1980s and 1990s. Arlette worked extensively as a bridge host on many bridge cruises and was the creator of the ACBL's popular continuing education course, "Bridge Teachers and Bridge Cruises," which she introduced at the New Orleans NABC in 1995 and which is still being offered today at the NABCs. She was one of the stars in the ACBL's television production for PBS, "Bridge Brush Up." She was a former trustee of the ACBL Educational Foundation.

Arlette lived her life to the fullest. All who knew her will attest that Arlette was, indeed, full of life – enjoying each endeavor and adventure. She graduated from the University of Houston with a B.S. and a Masters in Education, doing post-graduate work at New York University. She was a New York City stockbroker and a home improvements contractor. Arlette did most of the work herself to create a fantastic update of a waterfront home she owned in Daytona Beach.

The last three years of her life were spent in China, teaching English as a second language and, of course, teaching bridge on the side to her university students. Many of us were privileged to enjoy Arlette's experiences vicariously through her e-mails.

A Silver Life Master, she was the consummate teacher – and student. She treasured all of her friends, as they did her. Beautiful on the outside and equally beautiful on the inside, Arlette leaves us with wonderful memories and examples of how one should relish this life. She was a remarkable woman, and she led an extraordinary life. Arlette will be missed by her many friends who will forever remember her warm smile.

**ONLINE TEACHER LISTING**

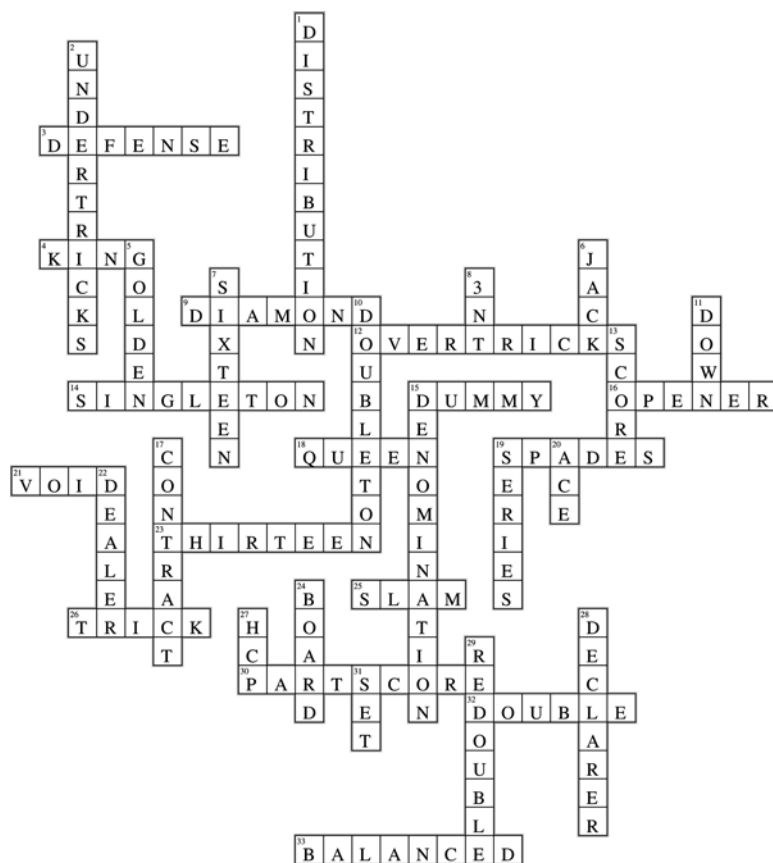
Have you wondered why you aren't listed at the ACBL's Find a Teacher site?

To get a listing, you must be actively teaching and you must fill in an online application and send it to the ACBL Education Department. The online application can be found at:

<http://fs3.formsite.com/acbl/form142291791/index.html>

Don't miss the opportunity to advertise your availability. The Find a Teacher site gets lots of hits!

**Answers to crossword on page 7**



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