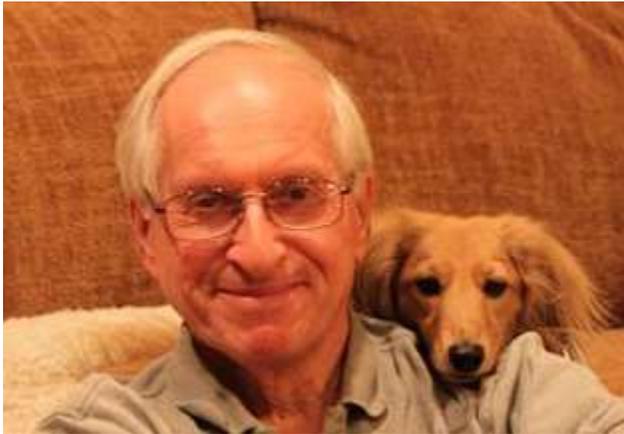


## Barry Abrahams



I was born in London, England during World War II. I can still remember being rushed to our bomb shelter and hearing large explosions. According to my mother, I would make a commentary on how loud they were. "Oh, that was a good one!"

My family emigrated to Los Angeles when I was 9 years old due to my father's health.

I attended UCLA School of Engineering and worked in a butcher shop and

pharmacy to pay the \$65 per semester tuition plus those expensive books. Julie and I married right after I graduated from UCLA in 1963.

I was first introduced to Bridge during lunchtime at my first professional job (Rocketdyne in California). Julie had picked up the game from her father who enjoyed the game a lot. Julie and I would play infrequently during company evening Bridge events and earned our first fractions of masterpoints. I left Rocketdyne after three years and joined Hughes Aircraft's new missile division in Canoga Park, California.

I worked at Hughes as an engineer, then several management positions that resulted in me being transferred to Tucson in 1973, then to California in 1978, then Tucson in 1981, then California in 1985, then Tucson in 1991, then Washington DC in 1993. The work at Hughes Missile Systems was fascinating. I was surrounded by lots of bright and energetic people. We worked on advanced technologies that today form the basis of our country's missile and other defense systems.

In Washington I led the company's strategic planning efforts. We recommended the company explore the possibility of merging Hughes Aircraft and Raytheon in a time of Defense industry consolidation. Subsequently, I was assigned by both companies to lead the effort of figuring out how we actually combine the two companies. The intense and lengthy effort that followed left no time for Bridge or much else but work. About that time Julie was diagnosed with cancer.

I opted for early retirement so that Julie and I could enjoy more time together. We moved from the Washington D.C. area to Governor's Land on the James River in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Governor's Land is the home of the breathtaking Two River's Country Club which has an avid Bridge and Golf community. Then Julie caught both the "Bridge and Golf bugs". She dragged me along as her Bridge partner. She loved the game, but she did not love my Bridge skills!

Williamsburg is also the home of the second oldest university in the country, The College of William and Mary. I was recruited as an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Business and taught "Mergers and Acquisitions" there for three years. Williamsburg turned out to be a long way from our two kids who lived in Los Angeles and Hawaii. We moved back to Tucson, our second home, in 2005.

We discovered Las Candelas Bridge Club, Adobe Bridge Club and La Paloma Golf Club. We took Bridge lessons from Bob Hinkle and started enjoying the game and the players we met. Julie still did not like my Bridge skills! Julie and I got involved with ACBL Unit 356 where Julie served as the NLM Representative and later the President. I also later served as Unit President.

Julie passed away in 2010. Losing your partner after 47 years of marriage is devastating. I attended two grief support groups for a couple of years. Then I met Lindsey at one of them. We had a lot in common and both understood the impact of losing your spouse. This coming Spring, we will celebrate our seventh wedding anniversary.

Lindsey and I live on a beautiful plot of land in the foothills that Lindsey has developed as a wildlife habitat. Lindsey is interested in Bridge, but her priorities are gardening (she is a Master Gardener) and wildlife photography. I am the chief irrigation engineer. Lindsey has helped with advice on a number of occasions in my role on the Adobe Board of Directors. Luckily for her, she has not played with me as a Bridge partner. So, she is yet to understand my deficiencies.