

CAROL PILMAR

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. My parents were both schoolteachers. Although I did not want to follow in their footsteps, I ended up teaching for sixteen years.

I attended James Madison HS, among whose famous graduates are Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Chuck Schumer and Bernie Sanders. I then attended Brooklyn College where I majored in psychology. My mother pleaded with me to take some

education courses, which I did. I followed college with graduate school and earned a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and then the equivalent of a PhD.

I taught second graders for 16 years; I didn't teach higher grades because the students were sure to be taller than me. Despite the fact that teaching was not what I planned on doing, I derived a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from the profession. I taught the gifted as well as the slow learner. Both were gratifying in different ways. Ultimately I became a reading specialist.

Unlike many of today's bridge players, I never played in college because Brooklyn College was a commuter school. After retiring from teaching in 1984, I spent lots of time traveling the world, sculpting and just enjoying life. One of our trips was out West. We ended up in Tucson to see the "cowboys." We spent one night at Ventana Canyon, where my husband met a New York transplant with whom we became good friends. Then we went to Canyon Ranch and loved it, and for quite a while we returned there for one week every year. My husband wanted to work less so we decided to rent a place in Tucson. For 10 years we were snowbirds before moving here from Manhattan in 2003.

When in Manhattan, I continued to learn bridge and play at Honors Bridge Club. That was an experience. Every table had a pro; some were nice and others really nasty. I did learn from all of them. For 18 years I played with Ken Badertscher, who taught me a great deal. Now I get my physical exercise in the morning and mental exercise at the bridge table. Not a bad life.

May 2021 bring us all together once again at the Adobe.