

Meet Henry Buch



I was born and raised in the Chicago area of Hyde park, near the University of Chicago and a stone's throw from the Obama residence (although they were not there at the time).

I attended M.I.T and the University of Illinois, where I received a degree in mathematics. As some of you know, I have a fraternal twin brother who lives in Brooklyn

For 20 plus years I worked as an actuary until I moved to Tucson in 1994.

My bridge life began in the early 1970's when I started playing bridge in college and in clubs (including the famous Alpha Club in Chicago). Some of the players attained national prominence (among them Larry Robbins and Greg DeFotis – who also was a champion chess player).

Like many of you, I took a hiatus from bridge for almost a decade.

When I returned to bridge in the 1980's I joined a game run by Harriet Buckman who ultimately became the president of the ACBL. The Chicago bridge scene at that time was loaded with nationally known players and it was tough to make progress.



Undeterred by the competition, I decided to play a very aggressive game to see if those very good players would make mistakes – and they did.

I remember having an epiphany which I consider my first good assumption at the bridge table. Declarer had plenty of trump on the board and shortness in his hand. He ruffed once or twice and then pulled trump. When he failed to ruff that suit again I realized he was out of trump. Something "clicked." I made my first bridge "connection."

Another highlight of my bridge career was when I was playing with my late wife Cookie in a bridge tournament vs Jeff Meckstroff. I made a psych bid of a 1 NT overcall and he called the director.

I also have a passion for chess which I began to learn at age 5. I recall my father making chess pieces out of stale bread and shoe polish. I have played chess on and off for years but I never really put in the time needed to master the game. The pandemic has given me the opportunity to seriously study chess.

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