

Welcome to Friendship Duplicate Bridge Club

- **Hear it from our beloved Beverly**
- **History of the Friendship Club**

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If you know Beverly Worsdale, you know she loves to play bridge and loves the Friendship Club and its members more than she can say. You would also know that she can't keep herself from telling you how grateful she is for her life. Born in 1927 on a farm in South Dakota before it was even a state, Beverly worked hard with her sister and parents to contribute to making the farm go. They had no running water or electricity, and she learned to drive a tractor at age nine! At seventeen, Beverly decided she had had enough of farm life, and she wanted to go to New York City. She sold a few of her things and some of her animals and managed to have enough to travel to New York.

It turns out that our Beverly was a little bit of a party girl, and when a friend invited her to a soiree, she accepted. There she met her future husband, Peter. Peter was in the Air Force in England and flew fifty-six missions over Germany during the war. Beverly chuckles when she talks about meeting him. It turns out that Peter was immediately drawn to her, but because he was an Englishman, she thought he too reserved and straight laced. Fortunately, he pursued her, and eventually, she accepted his proposal. She had a wonderful marriage for forty-two years.

Beverly has always loved to read, and it is because she read a book about Florida that we are so lucky she moved here. She thought Florida sounded like a nice place to live, so to Miami they came. She and Peter had two children, and those children have given her the apples of her eye - her five grandchildren. She told me that other than playing bridge, the thing she loves to do the most is hanging out with them.

In Florida, Beverly took up bridge for fun. She said she knew nothing except for a small amount she had read. She likely would not have kept trying, but the

encouragement of Kim Hall, Fred Wills and Peter Terzian was ever present. They made it their mission to help Beverly and her friends. Originally, they all played at the old Duck Pond, but Beverly decided to try to start another club for their game. Luckily, the Coral Gables Youth Center offered them a room. She happily chats about the early days of the Friendship Club when they would be really happy if they managed to have two or three tables. She said that when they needed new playing cards, they would take up a collection. In the beginning, she bought and made all the food and drinks. I recall her always always helping set up and put away everything before and after the game. When the game grew to four or five tables, one of the members paid to have them all join the ACBL so they could have a sanctioned game. She also revealed that Richard DeQuattro was the person who organized them into a real club. She is so thankful to have had bridge and to all the people who helped to make her into a player. She shared that after Peter passed, she used to love going to tournaments. She brags that she went nine different times to Gatlinburg, and regaled me with stories about meeting teammates and having fun. She is now a Gold Life Master.

Beverly constantly says that her life has been a real blessing, and she talks often about how much bridge contributed to her enjoyment of life. Other than her grandchildren and her love of reading, she says she is most grateful for the game and for those who helped her along the way. And we at Friendship Club are so grateful for her ever smiling and gracious presence.

Last updated : 26th Apr 2018 13:19 EDT

History of the Friendship Club

The Friendship Club was born in March of 1953. It was located south of the Biltmore Hotel in a section of Salvador Park which had been renovated and designated as its home. The All States Friendship Club of Coral Gables had over a hundred senior citizen participants who played a variety of games including canasta, chess, dominoes and shuffleboard as well as bridge. Duplicate bridge was played on Wednesday evenings and on Saturdays. Eventually, in 1996, it's small clubhouse was demolished. As the oldest club in Coral Gables, the Friendship was invited to relocate to the Coral Gables Youth Center where it remained until our move to the Holiday Inn. Because the Holiday Inn was to be demolished, our club moved briefly to the senior center until our wonderful new location at the Elks Club was discovered.

First run by Edith Cress, the card fee was twenty-five cents with proceeds going to the winners. Any other funds were saved for cards and supplies. With no computer, Edith did all the scoring, but she was assisted by both Bill Robson and Frank DeVerteuil. At the end of some sessions, a woman named Ginger Levin would sometimes entertain everyone by playing the piano. A new member, Ron Eisenberg, suggested joining the ACBL so that everyone could play for match points. A new

manager, George Finney, paid the fees for everyone for a full year. Sadly very few of the original members are still with us.

Rick Crawford and Ron Eisenberg became director and bought all the food and drinks and paid the ACBL. Linda Shourds began to play in 1997 and then was asked to become a director, which she did in 1999. Peter Terzian who had had a game in the Congregational Church near the Biltmore, decided to combine with his game with the one at the Youth Center, directing twice a week. Now the club had duplicate bridge six days and one evening a week. When Ron passed away, Rick Crawford directed two days and one evening, but when he moved away, Richard DeQuattro directed. When Peter Terzian passed, Bill Robson, Michael Yau, David Babcock and eventually Jody Ledford all became directors. The members of the Duplicate Section of the Friendship Club became the board members of the entire club. Led by Ted Spak, we negotiated to remain at the Youth Center for as long as possible. When Ted passed, the head of the Board became Ben Feinswog, and now we are overseen by that Board. Other current Board of Directors members are Loli Rainey, Doug Winship, Vivien Reedy, Don Weiner, Donna Blythe, Steve Tiktin, Herb Dunn, David Kunstler, Gerrie Soman, Audrey Frank and Joyce Natter as well as Francisco Bernal, Jody Ledford and Richard DeQuattro.

The duplicate bridge part of the Friendship Club has over one hundred and fifty participants. The All States Friendship Club continues to host chess, party bridge, mah jongg, parties and other events for seniors. We are so grateful to the city of Coral Gables for helping us with financial support as we transition to our new home. We are so lucky to have found the Elks Club, and we hope to be here for many years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our members for attaining the new rank!

April

Don Weiner	Sapphire Life Master
Jeff Leffcourt	Life Master
Ronnie Burman	Sectional Master

March

Norman Pestaina	Diamond Life Master
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February

Francisco Bernal	Diamond Life Master
Amparo Angel	Bronze Life Master
Robert Gordon	Bronze Life Master

Andrea Sharpe	Bronze Life Master
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Delores O'Connell	NABC Master
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Barbara Lefcourt	NABC Master
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January

Susan Christie	Ruby Life Master
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If you know anyone whose name is missing, please contact Audrey Frank. Thank you!

Charity Month

April is the ACBL's annual Charity Month, and all Friendship games this month are charity games. Masterpoint awards are 64% sectional rated black points. This works out to about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a point per player on average—about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the awards for regular club games.