

A TRIBUTE TO RITA HALL
ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

When I asked Judy if I could write another poem for Rita, I said, “short” —well, I lied!
Too many things to say and recall, so I want you to know I really tried...

Again, you have to get up pretty early if you think you can fool Rita at noon.
In fact, don't bother getting up at all—it isn't going to happen today, next week, or anytime soon.

I keep hoping that one of these days that even-in her own words-“with these dirty glasses,”
She'll realize she can use those green cards for passes!

But, oh no, if I bid one diamond, she'll ponder for a second and then bid one spade.
I'll bid again, she'll say, “you're a BRAVE soul” then double--knowing my bid won't be made!

Bottom line—is it fun playing E/W at Table 2? Yes, it is a lot!
Will I ever learn, though? “Probably not”!

After recovering and gather my wits from that round—a time for a tale or 2 is in store.
We all know underneath that sharp Bridge mind, there's so much more!

Whether it's the Doctor who's been told in no uncertain terms—“I'm only taking off one shoe,
not two”!
Or her favorite saying after a tough day at Bridge—“I'm going home to kick the dog”!
Thank goodness it's not one of you!

And now that another year has gone by, I am still such a FAN!
This year, tho, I am not even going to mention that Campbell's Soup Can!

How I've enjoyed your trail of memories, that twinkle in your eye, that great laugh—
And I do remember your advice to me a long time ago—“Keep it simple and do the MATH”!

So, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RITA! Enjoy your birthday week!
I look forward to 101 and sharing a small part of your life here at Bridge...
And sharing more than a few cookies—because as you say-- “There's not a cookie I don't like”!

Cheri Foss
February 2024

