



Welcome and Happy 2015!

It's time to celebrate past achievements and look ahead to new challenges.

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

Our members performed outstandingly well at the recent National Tournament in Providence. In the Open Swiss, **Bob Carvin** and his team won 1st place taking home 26.61 gold and



Anmarie Stanton, Judy Goranson, David Idell and their team finished 10th overall and 1st in C, taking home 12.86 gold. Some of the other big winners of gold include **Ruth Weston, Hal Merzon, Richard Simolari, Betsey Paige, Dan Rice** and **Michael Chapman**. Well done!

Congratulations to members who have advanced in status. **Bob Dutra** to Junior Master, **Dan Rice** and **Eric Throop** to NABC Master, **Norm Guivens** to Bronze Life Master, and **Bill Shaffer** to Silver Life Master.



Bob Carvin won the 2014 District 25 and Unit 108 Ace of Clubs race in the 2500-5000 category with 279 points. He came in 13th in the country. Bob's total points for 2014 were 385: 3rd in Eastern Mass.

Bill Hannon won the 2014 Masterpoint Race at our Club with 151.6 points. **Jeff Sweeney** was right behind him with 142 points. Congratulations to all of these great bridge players.



NIFTY 150s

Congratulations to our members who made the list of EMBA's top 150 masterpoint winners in 2014 - the Nifty 150s. They are, in descending order, **Bob Carvin** (385 points), **Jean Shaffer** (219), **Richard Palmer** (177), **Jeff Sweeney** (173), **Lou Kelleher** (170), **Ruth Weston** (165), **Bill Hannon** (162), **Bill Shaffer** (155), **Henry Daley** (141), **Gautam Merchant** (140), and **Eddie Kelley** (135).

What do you do to celebrate 60 years of marriage? If you are **Bill and Jeannie Shaffer**, you donate \$150 to your favorite Bridge Club to buy new bidding boxes. Their lovely gesture inspired two others to donate another \$200. So, soon you will be enjoying new bidding cards. To thank the Shaffers, we are planning a little celebration. Stay tuned for details.



Competitive Bridge in a Friendly Environment



BIG CHANGES IN CLUB MANAGEMENT



**NO ONE
HAS DONE MORE
FOR THE PURITAN
BRIDGE CLUB
THAN
MARK BATCHELDER
AND
HENRY DALEY**



Their unselfish dedication and relentless hard work have made our Club what it is today.

Mark, as Chairman of the House Committee, has been responsible for the roof over our heads, the floor beneath our feet, and everything in between.

Henry, as Treasurer, Manager, Senior Director, and Auditor (all different hats he has worn over the years) has kept our finances in order and our ACBL sanction intact. Now, for the first time in more than 50 years, neither of them is on our Board. We commemorated their

contributions with a party at which each was presented with a plaque. The plaques now hang on the back wall of the game room. In addition, members made contributions to the Club in their honor. The Batchelder/Daley Fund currently has \$500. Each year we will have a special game to honor them and additional funds collected from that game will be added to the Fund. At Henry and Mark's request the money will be used to make improvements to the Club.



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Joe Harrington

If there is anything you want to know about Eastern Europe, especially Romania, just ask Joe Harrington. A paper he presented, *Romanian-American Relations, 1945-1992: An Overview*, was serialized on Romanian National Radio during the week of May 4, 1992. Joe has met the president of Romania, Ion Iliescu, and Mircea Geona on numerous occasions when Geona was Romania's ambassador to the United States. He also interviewed nearly all Romanian Ambassadors to America and their counterparts to Romania. One of his favorite stories involves an interview with a Romanian ambassador when Joe was asked if the article he was writing would be published before April of that year. Joe said "No"

and suddenly realized that the ambassador was going to defect and move into his daughter's house in Virginia. Within six months he had defected.

When Joe was president of the Society for Romanian Studies, he threw a party at the Romanian Embassy, basically taking over the embassy, with a dinner for the hundred or so guests, and he hosted a round table involving four ambassadors, two from each country.

Last February Joe presented an overview of his 2013 two volume work: *Conflicted Giant, American Foreign Policy, 1945-2012* to an audience of foreign service and state department personnel. Joe has published 7 books and over 60 articles in national and international journals. In 2003 Joe received the prestigious 2003 Kidger Award given by the New England History Teachers' Association to a college/university professor in the greater New England Area in recognition of their teaching, scholarship, and contribution to the profession. This was only the second time a state college faculty member won the award in 53 years.

Joe was a professor of history at Framingham State College from 1972 to 2003. He is the co-founder of both the College Academy (a summer program for bright children in grades 4 through 8) and College Gate (a summer program for bright children in grades K through 3).

Joe got his B.S. from Boston College in 1960 (magna cum laude) and his Ph.D. from Georgetown in 1971 (with distinction). During that time Joe spent nearly three years with NATO forces, followed by reserve time and was discharged with the rank of Captain in 1969.

Final Notes

We said a final farewell to three of our members who recently passed away: **Marty Wolf**, **Vin Riccardi**, and **Charlie Halbfinger**. They are missed.

Please remember, if you know of any significant milestones reached by any of our members or if you have any comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please share them with us at puritanbridge@verizon.net.



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