

Award Winner

Barbara Seagram

Barbara Seagram received the Kate Buckman Award, presented annually by Unit 166 to the person who contributes most to others' enjoyment of bridge. There couldn't be a more deserving recipient. She has given her boundless energy to the game. She's actively involved as a club owner, writer, bridge travel agent, player, member and administrator.

Barbara and her husband, Alex Kornel, own and manage the Kate Buckman Bridge Studio in Toronto. It's the largest club in Canada and the fourth largest on the continent. The club celebrated its 45th anniversary on November 30th 2003. It was founded by Kate Buckman in 1958. Starting in 1975, Barbara worked and taught alongside Kate herself. In 1990, Barbara and Alex bought the studio — affectionately known as “Kate's” — and maintained its traditions.

At the North American Bridge Championships in New Orleans last year, Kate Buckman's was recognized as one of ACBL's top five clubs.

The club is active! There are about 850 members and the studio runs 23 games each week. In addition to open games, there are intermediate or novice games at most sessions, in a separate room with their own director. Bridge tips are given prior to most of these games.

There's always something going on at the club. There are monthly birthday parties, cocktail parties, luncheon and dinner parties, mentoring programs and celebrity guest speakers. Barbara runs every ACBL special event and all of the Canadian Bridge Federation events as well. There are charity and memorial games, and extended team leagues. It's hopping! Barbara is innovative, and along with Paul Cronin and Hans Jacobs, she co-founded the Zero Tolerance program which is now used nation-wide ... and applied at her club. Barbara is also a travel agent and escorts bridge groups around the world on cruises and land programs, teaching and directing all the while.

She originally hails from Barbados and returns to the island every year to play in the annual Barbados Bridge Tournament. She obtained her degree in nursing at the University of New Brunswick, practiced nursing, and then taught it in Toronto before becoming involved in bridge. She and Alex, who comes from Warsaw, Poland, met at the bridge table in 1981.

Barbara's involvement in bridge organization is impressive. She's served on the Unit Board, the Board of Governors, and the Board of Directors for the American Bridge Teachers' Association. It's not surprising that she's also a member of the Goodwill Committee!

The list of books she has co-authored is remarkable. *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*, written with Marc Smith, won the American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year Award in 1999. It's been translated into German, French and Japanese.

Barbara Seagram is truly an icon of the game; she continues to contribute her skill and enthusiasm to the advancement and enjoyment of bridge.

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e: The Picture

At the North American Bridge Championships in New Orleans, Drzycimski Productions was busy filming *Bridge: The Big Picture*, a 13-week TV show written by Audrey Grant and David Lindop in cooperation with ACBL. It should be complete by the end of February and you'll be able to enjoy the opinions of champions such as those shown here. Clockwise from bottom left: **Bob Hamman**, **Eric Rodwell**, **Bobby Levin**, **Allan Graves**, **Jeff Meckstroth**, **Mike Passell** with Reisinger winner **Malcolm Brachman**, and film crew **Jeff** and **Steve**.