



BARBARA'S BULLETIN

SPRING 2010

BARBARA SEAGRAM
BRIDGE

416-487-1288

416-487-8321

bseagram@ca.inter.net www.barbaraseagram.com

LOCATION OF CLASSES: 694 MT PLEASANT RD

LOCATION OF GAMES: 526 A Lawrence Ave. W.

At REGAL - ST CLAIR BRIDGE CLUB (Lawrence Plaza)

MINI-SEMINARS WITH BARBARA AT SWEET GALLERY

694 Mt Pleasant 9.30-11.30 am

PRE-REGISTER: 416-487-1288 or email
bseagram@ca.inter.net

Seminars are \$15.00 each if pre-paid
prior to the class. \$20.00 at door.

Thu Feb 25: SLAM BIDDING (sold out)

Thu Mar 4: MORE CUE BIDDING sold out

Thu Apr 15: MORE CUE BIDDING
(same class as Mar4)

Thu Apr 22: Preemptive bidding (sold
out) Thu Apr 29: Preemptive bidding
(same class as Apr 22)

Thu May 6: Improve Your Play

Thu Jun 10: Common Errors to Avoid

Call Barbara or email her to register
416-487-8321 or 416-487-1288.

If unable to attend a seminar, please
notify us. Space limited. Mail cheques to
Barbara Seagram, 220 Lawrence Ave E,
Toronto ON M4N 1T2

SUPERVISED PLAY FOR NEWER PLAYERS

At Regal-St Clair: 526 A Lawrence
Ave. W. (next to Jones New York)
\$10.00 per person

TUES 16 FEB 9.30-11.30 am

TUES 23 FEB 9.30-11.30 am

TUES 2 MAR 9.30-11.30 am

TUES 20 & 27 APRIL 9.30-11.30 am

Pre-selected hands are played in
these sessions & Barbara then goes
over the hand with everyone, dis-
cussing how you should have bid &
played the hand. Stay & play for
\$5.00 (special fee), if you wish.

RIVER BOAT BRIDGE CRUISE:

VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

FEB 6-28, 2011

Brand new ship. Call Barbara to
book.

MAILING ADDRESS:

220 LAWRENCE AVE. E.

TORONTO, ON M4N 1T2

416-487-8321

FAX: 416-487-8890

FREE LESSONS! PLEASE

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Barbara Seagram School of
Bridge - 694 Mt Pleasant Rd

Free real beginners' lesson

Sat 27 FEB 10-11.30 am

Sat 7 AUG 10-11.30 am

Free Intermediate lesson

Sat 27 FEB 12.30-2.00 pm

Sat 7 AUG 12.30-2.00 pm

PRE-REGISTER PLEASE

416-487-1288 or e mail

bseagram@ca.inter.net

694 MOUNT PLEASANT RD

Above Sweet Gallery Restaurant

BRIDGE AT THE BRIARS APRIL 30- MAY 2, 2010

RATES REDUCED IF BOOKED BY MARCH 10th.

\$499.00 (dbl occ per person) \$599.00 (sgl occ)

VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & THE RICHES OF THE MEKONG DELTA RIVER

BOAT CRUISE: FEB 6-28, 2011

FROM \$ 8,638.00 USD incl. air & tax

Call Barbara Seagram for info: 416-487-8321

TRANSATLANTIC BRIDGE CRUISE: APR 27-MAY 15, 2011

Prices from \$3,644.00 + \$492.00 tax incl air

BEGINNER & INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE LESSONS 2010

at BARBARA'S SCHOOL OF BRIDGE
commence APR & JUN 2010

Basic PART I: Wed APR 14th. 1 + 7

Basic Part II: Wed JUN 2nd. 1 + 7

Intermediate I

Tue Apr 13th. @ 1 + 7 pm

Thur June 3rd 1 & 7 pm

Defence @ 1pm & Conventions 7 pm

www.barbaraseagram.com

bseagram@ca.inter.net

THE DIAMONDS

One of the bridge players at our club, **Phil Levitt**, was a member of the well-known group, *The Diamonds*. They were best known for their songs: *Little Darlin'*, *Why Do Fools Fall in Love*, *The Stroll* (a popular line dance in the 50's) used in the movie "Summer of '42" and *Silhouettes*. There were more that hit the charts but those were the best known. *Little Darlin'* and *The Stroll* were gold records. We asked Phil to tell us more...

"Our singing group, *The Diamonds*, was born one evening in the summer of '54 in Crystal Beach, a vacation haunt near Fort Erie, where a buddy and I were spending a couple of weeks after writing our high school finals. We had spent the evening at the Swing In, an outdoor spot with a great juke box where those who could (we couldn't) jitterbugged with the girls in our summer crowd. After our usual 2 or 3 hours of envious audiencing, we began our lonely walk home up a short dark street to our parents' cottages.

I had learned to love harmonising in various choirs in high school, and my buddy liked to sing, so, while we walked, he sang and I harmonised to "I'd Rather Die Young" by the Hilltoppers (remember that one?), which we'd recently learned via the juke box at the Swing In. Half-way home four girls detached themselves from the shadows between two cottages and rushed over to us with loud squeals of approval at our very humble vocal offerings. We were overcome with joy. In that short instant, jitterbugging had reached obsolescence as a means of social contact with the opposite sex.

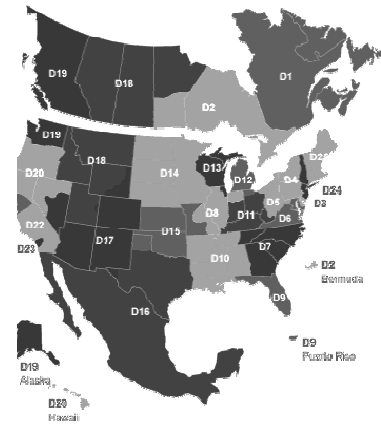
During the following couple of months we added a tenor from my university engineering class, and a friend of his, a bass singer. We loved the sound, the mix of voices, and built up a small repertoire. For the next year we sang anywhere, in the corners of restaurants, on the subway, on the streets, at parties...wherever we could. People seemed to react well, so ultimately we found a manager (an English horn player from the TSO), made the decision to become professional and, with a lot of hard work and a few lucky breaks, went on to two years of TV, radio, night clubs and recordings, producing a couple of gold records, a number of life-altering experiences and lots of great memories.

I tired of the good life in 1957, left the group and went back to U of T to complete my electrical engineering degree. Sometimes in the Engineering Lounge, I went to sit and watch four older students playing an interesting-looking game they called 'bridge'. I knew nothing about the game and had trouble following what they were doing, but it looked complicated and fascinating. Then, of course, the fateful day arrived when one of their group didn't show, and I was enlisted (like a sailor in the 17th century British navy) to take his place. I was petrified, but did my best and loved it. Naturally I was hooked.

Then graduation, a career in electrical consulting engineering, marriage, kids and 'kitchen' bridge with other couples. The bridge was bad because none of us who were playing had ever read a book about the science of the game, and each one's mediocrity pulled the others down to his or her level. I have a sneaking suspicion that the rye and scotch may have also contributed to the low quality of the game. After a few years I gave it up as other priorities took up so much time. I found however that, still hooked, I got an enormous amount of pleasure from books and newspaper bridge columns.

One day a couple of years ago a guy I knew at the 'Y' (Seymour Swartz, for those of you who may know him), asked me if I would play duplicate as his partner. I had played a couple of times decades ago and still shiver at the memory. However he took me to Barbara and Alex's Tuesday afternoon game, where the friendly atmosphere and considerate demeanour of the hosts made for a pleasant re-entry into the duplicate world. I enjoyed it and still do and, in spite of being saddled with basic mediocre abilities aggravated by something I've heard referred to as 'the aging process'. I get a lot of joy from the game, and hope to for a while yet."

THE A.C.B.L. American Contract Bridge League



The A.C.B.L. is the largest organizing body of bridge in the world. They publish an excellent monthly magazine. Membership is \$34.00 for new members for their first year. A.C.B.L. records your master points, sends you the magazine and runs hundreds of bridge tournaments annually.

The ACBL comprises 25 regional districts in U.S.A., Canada, Mexico and Bermuda. The districts are composed of 308 Units. See their web site at www.acbl.org (Toronto and surrounding areas are part of Unit 166 and we are in District 2) If you are not yet a member, or have let your dues lapse, we urge you to join or get reinstated. We will be happy to do this for you. We can retrieve all the points you won over the past year and do the necessary paper work.

MILESTONES

The A.C.B.L. has just published the list of winners of the Ace of Clubs Awards for Unit 166. These are given to those who have won the most master points at the club level (not including points won at bridge tournaments).

200-300 master point category:

1. Jill Thompson 113.38 points in 2009
2. Mary Lovrics 110.33
3. Barbara Murray 106.22

300-500 master point category

2. Natalie Silverstein 93.91

500-1000 master point category

2. Jan Stewart 149.88
5. Dorothea Waxler 117.23

1000-2500 master point category

1. Barbara Shnier 223.48

7,500-10,000 master point category

1. Mark Liberman 189.41
2. Dudley Camacho 155.90

Special congratulations also to:

Jill Thompson who recently became a Life Master. Also to **Josee Hammill**, who became a Life Master in Bermuda. **Mary Britnell** became a life master last November; **Pat Morrow** became a Life Master also in Bermuda. **Jan Stewart** just became a Silver Life Master (over 1000 points). Ken Collins just received his gold card.

Our heartiest congratulations to all of these people. Our apologies if we have missed anyone.

TORONTO SYMPHONY BRIDGE FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY APRIL 27. 9 am – 2.30 pm

Bridge: 9.30am – 12.30 pm

Wine Reception: 12.30 pm – 1.00 pm

Lunch & speaker: 1.00 – 2.30 pm

GUEST SPEAKER: LINWOOD BARCLAY

Author of *Never Look Away*: Location: Old Mill Inn & Spa

Register: www.tsvc.on.ca or call 416-593-7769 # 358

Volunteer Directors: Wayne Ruttan & Jean Collins

BASIC BRIDGE LESSONS: APRIL, MAY, JUNE & FALL 2010

For brand new players & for those who have been away from the game for a long time & wish to start over. Textbooks are provided free in all Basic & Intermediate courses. All of our classes teach modern Standard American 5-card majors. All classes are held at: BARBARA SEAGRAM SCHOOL OF BRIDGE. 694 Mount Pleasant Rd, Toronto
www.barbaraseagram.com bseagram@ca.inter.net

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: BARBARA SEAGRAM: Mailing address:
220 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto, ON M4N 1T2

FREE INTRODUCTORY LESSONS: OPEN HOUSE
BEGINNERS: SAT FEB 27, 2010: 10.00-11.30 am
INTERMEDIATES: SAT FEB 27, 2010: 12.30 - 2 pm

Textbooks are provided free in all Basic & Intermediate courses. Tickets for 5 free practice games given.

SPRING BASIC COURSES: APRIL/MAY: 4 weeks; JUNE: 4 weeks SEP: 8 weeks

BASIC PART I

Wed April 14th, 2010: 1.00 - 3.30 pm (4 weeks)
Wed April 14th, 2010: 7.00 - 9.30 pm (4 weeks)

BASIC PART II

Wed June 2nd, 2010: 1.00 - 3.30 pm (4 weeks)
Wed June 2nd, 2010: 7.00 - 9.30 pm (4 weeks)

BASIC COURSES FALL 2010

Tues. Sept 14th, 2010: 1.00 - 3.30 pm (8 weeks) FALL COURSES: \$312.00 for 8 week course including tax
Tues. Sept 14th, 2010: 7.00 - 9.30 pm (8 weeks) FALL COURSES: \$312.00 for 8 week course including tax

COST OF BASIC BRIDGE LESSONS

SPRING 2010: \$289.00 (incl. GST)
for Basic Part I and II (if signing up for both)
OR \$165.00 for Part I or Part II taken individually
Beginner classes will also be given a copy of (in addition to text)
BARBARA SEAGRAM'S BEGINNING BRIDGE

INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE: APRIL THROUGH FALL 2010

COST OF INTERMEDIATE CLASSES: \$236.00 incl GST: SPRING CLASSES / FALL CLASSES: \$254.00 incl. tax
5 free practice games. All of our classes teach the most modern method of Standard American 5-card majors
Textbooks are provided free in all Basic & Intermediate courses.

Intermediate I

Bidding Review & Declarer Play : INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Seagram

Intermediate I is a great course for those who have had Basic lessons or those who have been away from the bridge table for a while, feel rusty and wish to brush up a bit. The course gives a complete review of the bidding, adding some more intricate sequences. Play of the hand is dealt with in detail...trump suit contracts and no trump contracts.

SPRING CRASH COURSE: INTERMEDIATE I

TUESDAY 13 APR 2010 1.00 - 3.30 pm TWICE A WEEK (TUE & THU AFT: 3 wks)
TUESDAY 13 APR 2010 7.00 - 9.30 pm TWICE A WEEK (TUE & THU AFT: 3 wks)

FALL INTERMEDIATE COURSES: INTERMEDIATE I

WEDNESDAY 22 SEP 2010 1.00 - 3.30 pm ONCE A WEEK FOR 8 WEEKS
WEDNESDAY 22 SEP 2010 7.00 - 9.30 pm ONCE A WEEK FOR 8 WEEKS



SPRING 2010 DEFENCE & CONVENTIONS COURSES

THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2010 1.00-3.30 pm DEFENCE COURSE
THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2010 7.00- 9.30 pm CONVENTIONS COURSE
INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA SEAGRAM \$165.00 for 4 wk course

INTERMEDIATE II: Thu 23 Sep 1-3.30
INTERMEDIATE III: Thu 23 Sep 7-9.30
Once a week for 6 weeks: \$254.00 incl tax

Intermediate II fills in the gaps & fine-tunes your bidding. Weak 2's, Strong 2C, Slam Bidding, Pre-empts, End Plays, Cross Ruff, Loser on Loser plays, Safety Plays, Responses by passed hand, Unusual NT, Michaels cue bids.

Intermediate III is a full course on Defence and Conventions. Signalling, Strategy, Discarding & major common conventions: Neg Dbls, Jacoby 2NT, Splinters, Roman Key card Blackwood, Texas Transfers, Cue bidding and more!

BARBARA & ALEX'S BRIDGE CLUB

Duplicate Games for Novice/Intermediate / Advanced
Intermediates and Open players
Games are held at Regal Bridge Studio 526 A Lawrence Ave.
West

LAWRENCE PLAZA Lots of free parking
(Entrance next to Jones New York & Shoppers Home Health)
Fun & friendly games are held on Tuesday and Wednesday
afternoons @ 12.00 noon

and Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm
LECTURES PRE-GAME @ 11.45 am & 6.45 pm
(Games are not restricted by master points but are restricted by
attitude. Only happy players are welcome!)

Games for more experienced players: Mon evening at 7.00 pm
(David Halasi's game at the Regal)
Wayne's Novice game: Tuesday evenings @ 6.45 pm at the Regal
...next step up from Monday evenings
Wayne's games for VERY new players: Mondays @ 6.45 pm @
63 Taunton Rd (Mt Pleasant & Eglinton) Help available

GARY CARR: PHOTOGRAPHER

"When I'm asked what I do now that I'm retired, I tell them that I have 3 hobbies: golf, bridge and photography. I'm actually not disappointed when November arrives and I put away my golf clubs because I can now focus more on bridge and photography. I must I'm very grateful to Barbara & Alex for teaching me both the fundamentals and intricacies of duplicate bridge. I know from speaking and listening to others that no-one in this city has done more to promote the game of duplicate bridge than Barbara and Alex. They have as well supported me in my photography by giving me space in the club to exhibit my photographs. Wayne Ruttan, who not only directs at the Regal on Tuesday evenings but as well creates wonderful black and white photography, is replacing my work. You can see Wayne's photography now at the club.

For anyone interested in ordering a print from my collection, you can visit my web site at www.garyjcarr.com
Any image you see can be ordered in any size you require."

From FIONA McCALL

There was an interesting piece in the Globe & Mail on January 11th. in Harvey Schacter's Monday Morning Managing column.
In tennis, the player with the fewest number of unforced errors – goofs made without any assistance from anyone else – usually wins. Sound familiar?

Schacter quotes management writer Jeffrey Krames of Executive Excellence, who has taken these parameters and applied them to business. See how they also apply to bridge!

1. Not facing reality at all times
2. Choosing the wrong partner
3. Staying with the wrong partner
4. Not living by the rules of the game
5. Focusing on weaknesses rather than strengths

So that's five. I took a closer look at the remaining two "rules".

The notes say:

6. "Anyone who isn't acquiring new skills, ideas and information is making an unforced error."

The notes add:

7. "Look for these gems – individuals who lack all the prerequisites of the job but have something special that makes them stand out, such as enthusiasm. Keep an eye out for those unlikely players with hidden strengths & create a culture in which they will flourish."

SPRING AT BRIARS APRIL 30 – MAY 2

Barbara & Alex have been taking groups to Briars for many years now. It is such a fun weekend. We play 5 sessions of bridge. There is a seminar as well. There is a bridge tip before each session. All sessions are optional so you can play as much or as little as you please and can swim in the outdoor pool, go for a walk or enjoy the spa while there.

This spring, we have just dropped the prices if you pay by March 10th.

Double occupancy price per person is now \$499.00 including all accommodation, meals, taxes, gratuities and bridge.

Single occupancy price per person is now \$599.00

This is a limited time offer. Join us for a fun weekend. Call Barbara at 416-487-8321 or best of all email bseagram@ca.inter.net

by ALLY WHITENECK

My bridge motto: "Constant effort and frequent mistakes are the stepping stones of genius" -- Elbert Hubbard

I started playing bridge for the first time 3 ½ years ago. After a year of trying to learn on my own with friends, I started taking bridge classes where I met a woman who talked to me about being in her practice duplicate group. She asked me if I played "transfers", of which I had no idea what those were, and then suggested I might not be ready for the group! She guided me to the Barbara Seagram book "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know". Six months later having memorized 95% of the book I told her I was ready to join! Declarer play, what's that? My goal since then has been for my declarer play to catch up with my convention savvy! I am keenly interested in promoting the game of bridge and helping those who are beginning to play. I am a big advocate of the mentor programs and believe that we should all be a part of them, helping each other to become better bridge players. It does not matter whether one chooses a long term mentorship or a periodic game with a less experienced player.

I am a believer that the challenge of playing good bridge far exceeds the thrill of any single victory. And that good sportsmanship is as important as the game itself!

ZERO TOLERANCE PROGRAMME

Several years ago, three people in our ACBL District 2 developed the Zero Tolerance programme in bridge which is now in effect all over North America. They were Paul Cronin, Hans Jacob and Barbara Seagram. The programme assures a social climate that promotes enjoyable bridge. There is Zero Tolerance for unpleasant or rude behaviour at or away from the table.

Commendable behaviour: Anything that makes bridge more enjoyable for others, including:

Greeting others in a friendly manner
Praising the play or defence of opponents (praise of partner should occur only when opponents are not at table)
Being a good "host" or "guest" at the table
Just generally doing everything possible to make bridge the incredibly enjoyable game we know it can be

Unacceptable behaviour: Anything that makes bridge less enjoyable for others, including:

Publicly criticizing partners or others
Discussing previous hands after new opponents have arrived
Gloating over good results
Negative comments concerning anyone's play, including partner
Poor personal hygiene, grooming or dress
Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, profanity, threats or violence
Disputing a director's ruling during game
Objecting to a call for a director
Please do your part to make sure that the world of duplicate bridge is always a happy place to be, wherever you may play.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The Splinter Bid

by Barbara Seagram

We know that to make game in a major, you need 26 points (including distribution); but to make a small slam, you need approximately 33 points. But how often have you bid only to game and made 6? You turn to partner and say: "The hands just fit really well together. We couldn't have bid it, we didn't have enough points."

So here's a special convention designed to help you get to a small slam with maybe only 26 points if you have "magic" in the other suits. It's called the "Splinter Bid".

But first we must fully understand a basic concept:

If you have ♦432 in declarer's hand, you may be about to lose three tricks right off the bat in ♦. But if your ♦432 is located opposite ♦5 (singleton) in dummy, let's call that "magic", if you are playing in a trump suit contract. Presto, you can no longer lose more than one trick in that suit, provided that dummy has some trumps.

Enter the Splinter Bid:

Requirements for a Splinter Bid by responder to the Opening Bid are:

13-15 points (including distribution)

A singleton or void in a side suit (Singleton may **not** be an ace or a king)

4 or more trumps.

Responder makes a double jump in the suit in which he has a singleton or a void:

e.g.

1H - 4C

or

1S - 4D

or

1H - 3S

Let's see this in the context of a full deal:

1098
AQJ6
76
J1098

A7632 KQ54
875 4
AQ5 K432
K2 A543

J
K10932
J1098
Q76

Together, you only have 25 HCP but you can make 6S. Dummy's singleton H is a key feature opposite your three small H's. Declarer's hand is now so much better. Declarer knows from the auction that she cannot lose more than one trick in that suit and knows that partner's Aces and Kings are all located in the other suits where they will do the most good. This is called: "no wasted values". (Some call it "no wastage".)

The auction on the above hand would go: 1S - 4H
4NT* - 1 ace or 2
key cards, depending on what version of Blackwood you are playing 6S

Note that we do not normally use Blackwood when we have 3 or 4 small in a side suit but here we know that partner has a singleton or void in that suit so now it is fine to use Blackwood.

Now take a gander at the next hand:

1098
AQ82
Q7
K1076

A7632
KJ5
A65
Q2

KQ54
4
K432
A543

J
109763
J1098
J98

26 H.C.P. And no hope for slam. Alas! The singleton H in dummy lies opposite declarer's ♥KJx. Some less experienced players may say: "So what? I can trump those H in dummy." Yes, but note that those 4 points are now not being used to take tricks. (The trumps are taking the tricks, not the high cards.) One of the honours will be captured by the opponent's higher honour and you will trump the other honour. (By the way, North leads the ♠10, not the H Ace as he is a not a friend or relative!)

The auction on the above hand would go 1S - 4H
4S - Pass

Trumping those high cards is the equivalent of taking 4 high card points and throwing them into the garbage. Your 26 HCP suddenly became a measly 22 and now you can only make game.

Therefore, anytime that you find that partner has a singleton or void opposite your xxx or your xxxx or Axx or Axxx, this constitutes magic. Get excited and consider slam possibilities even without the traditional 33 points.

Remember that you must have 4 card support in order to splinter. With only three trumps in dummy, opponents may lead trumps on the go and again when they get on lead, now you cannot ruff all your losers. We have lied to you all these years and told you that 8 trumps is to die for. In reality, eight is fine but nine's devine!!

Remember too that splinter bids are not designed to help you to get to game. With 26 points, you were always getting to game. It is all about attempting to get to slam even with not very many points.

Location, location, location. How do these hands fit together? Location of your short suit and high card points. Watch for magic and get to these wonderful slams! Magic is in the air only when you find that partner has a singleton or void (that is not an ace or a king) opposite your xxx or xxxx or a singleton or void opposite your Axx or Axxx.

OVERHEARD AT THE TABLE

One of our students was being criticized, and not very nicely, at the table. She leaned over, looked her opponent in the eye and said: "You're not good enough to be that mean!"

NEW!! DEFENCE COURSE

THURSDAY 3 JUNE 1.00-3.30 pm

NEW!! CONVENTIONS COURSE

THURSDAY 3 JUNE 7.00-9.30 pm

Both courses are once a week for 6 weeks.

INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Seagram \$165.00 incl tax
Pre-registration required



BRIDGE – WARM-UP TIPS by EDDIE KANTAR

Eddie Kantar is the leading bridge author in the world. He writes wonderful books for all levels of players. Check out his web site at www.kantarbridge.com

1. Never but never forget you are playing with a partner. It pays to consider what things may look like from partner's point of view, particularly when you are privy to some information that partner isn't.
2. You cannot defend properly unless you remember the bidding.
3. You cannot defend properly unless you know what system the opponents are playing.
4. You cannot defend properly unless you watch the cards, particularly the little fellows.
5. You cannot defend properly unless you count.
6. You cannot expect your partner to defend properly if you make faces or show other signs of disapproval.
7. Keep one goal in mind: DEFEATING THE CONTRACT. Do not worry about overtricks unless you are defending a doubled contract or are playing tournament bridge.
8. The figure to focus on during the defence is the number of tricks you need at any given moment to defeat the contract.
9. Give your opening lead a little consideration. The fate of many a contract is determined by that one card. Use the bidding as a guide.
10. Make sure you and your partner are on the same wave length concerning leads and signalling.
11. Don't compound a crime. If you, or more likely partner, has made an error, do not lose your cool. Many contracts can still be beaten after one defensive error, seldom after TWO.
12. If partner makes a nice play, a kind word or two at the end of the hand goes a long way.
13. The speed of the play may be a clue to declarer's problem. When playing a 4-3 trump fit, play usually slows to a crawl.
14. When two possible defences present themselves to defeat a contract, both equally likely, select the simpler.
15. If you can see the winning defence, take charge. Don't put any additional pressure on partner if you don't have to.
16. Keep partner's skill level in mind. Lead a poor player by the hand.
17. Watch partner's spot card signals. The stronger your partner, the more meaningful they are.
18. Keep your singletons and doubletons in the middle of your hand. Some players watch where your cards come from.

Vision 2000 Travel Group

www.vision2000.ca

is a leader in travel solutions, providing a comprehensive range of business & vacation travel services. Proudly Canadian, Vision 2000 is **Canada's largest** independently owned travel management company.

With a staff of almost 300 travel professionals and **more than 25 locations** from Victoria to Montreal, Vision 2000 Travel Group is recognized as a driving force in the travel marketplace. Our role is to ensure that our clients get where they need to be, when they need to be there, for the best possible price. In an incredibly fast-changing travel environment, our many long-term clients are testament to our ability to adapt, innovate and constantly move forward. With over 50 years of experience, Vision 2000 Travel Group is a progressive company that continually strives to provide our clients with the most advanced travel technologies, superior supplier programs, specialized services, worldwide partnerships and pro-active travel management.

Check out our website where you are able to book your own flights, cruises and trips online at great savings to you. Call Liz Gibb for all your travel needs at **416-487-5385 or 416-915-2808**.

"We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing!" Source unknown.

"I'm not sure whether glory or masterpoints is first on the list, but I know learning to play better is definitely last." Eddie Kantar

"It is not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones." Alan Sontag

DAVID HALASI

Bridge has been a part of my life for over 15 years. I have enjoyed the game as both a player and a director and would like the opportunity to give back to the game that has provided me with years of enjoyment. I am asking for your vote in the Unit 166 Board of Directors election this spring in order to lend my experience and resources to the Board.

I feel that I can make the tournaments more fun. It should be more than just a way to win more masterpoints; rather, bringing back the social atmosphere that makes it worth spending money and time to attend the local sectionals and regionals.

By working with the members, it is my goal to provide the general public with a voice on the Board, to communicate their likes and dislikes, and reply back with timely feedback on their concerns.

ED. NOTE: David has been a director in our games from when he was 14 years old. He is now 31. He is a super young man and the Unit Board would benefit tremendously from his presence on the Board. We urge you to vote for David this spring. See Kibitzer for details of how to vote.



"KOI FOR KOHAI"

A few years ago, while on a memorable Asian bridge cruise, organized by Barbara Seagram, Sherry Drew became fascinated with koi fish. Upon her return home, Sherry was inspired to paint a large

koi on canvas. This painting, in a variety of reproductions, has since become a means of raising funds for a charity very close to her heart - the **Kohai Educational Centre**.

The **Kohai Educational Centre** is a small but unique school in mid Toronto which specializes in teaching and socializing children with a wide range of learning disabilities, including autism. It is run by an extraordinary staff of wonderfully dedicated and talented teachers. Sherry's granddaughter, who is profoundly autistic, has been a student at Kohai for the past 6 years.

In a new fundraising effort, the "Koi for Kohai" has been reproduced on large face playing cards that sell for \$30.00 a set. All proceeds from the sale of these bridge cards are given directly to the **Kohai Educational Centre** to help maintain their high level of specialized teaching and care. For more information about Kohai, please visit their website at www.kohai.ca If you are interested in purchasing a set(s) of playing cards, please mail your cheque payable to "Kohai Educational Centre", along with your name and delivery address, to:

Sherry Drew
1 St Thomas Street, Suite 11B
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3M5
stdrew@rogers.com

Ed. note: Sherry Drew and Barbara started bridge lessons together back in 1975 at Kate Buckman's.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by the school and families who rely on its remarkable services.

WHAT'S NORMAL & WHAT'S NOT

Report on healthy aging by Dr. Nicole Anderson

Forgot where you put your keys? Have someone's name on the tip of your tongue? Worry whether you have a real memory problem? You're not alone. This is why it's important to know which memory slips are a part of normal, healthy aging, and which are signs that something more serious may be going on.

Not all aspects of memory are affected by aging. We continue acquiring new knowledge & improve our vocabulary as we get older, although accessing specific information when we want to use it becomes trickier. And the more you practise physical skills like playing an instrument or cognitive skills like playing bridge or doing crosswords, the better you'll get.

However, it does become more difficult to lay down new memories as we get older. So how does this play out in real life? What's normal & what's not?

- ❖ It is perfectly normal to get stuck for a person's name, but it is not normal to forget your spouse's name.
- ❖ It is perfectly normal to get lost in unfamiliar places, but it is not normal to get lost in a place you go to frequently.
- ❖ It is perfectly normal to get home from the store and realize that you forgot to buy an item or two, but it is not normal to get home and forget that you even went to the store.
- ❖ It is perfectly normal to tell someone the same story on two different occasions, but it is not normal to repeat a story within a single conversation.
- ❖ It is perfectly normal to not know the exact date (to be off a day or two), but it is not normal to be completely disoriented in time (e.g. think it is 1963).

FACTORS AFFECTING MEMORY

A wide variety of factors can affect how well our memory is functioning. Dementias are progressive diseases that cause cognitive dysfunction and difficulties with activities of daily living, like dressing oneself and managing finances. There are many types of dementia, but the most common are **Alzheimer's disease** and **vascular dementia**. Approximately 1 in 13 people over the age of 85 have dementia. These are sobering statistics, but it is important to remember that most older adults do not develop dementia and do live cognitively healthy lives.

RISK FACTORS for Alzheimer's disease include a family history of the disease, cardiovascular problems (which seem to accelerate disease progression), and prior head injury. Studies suggest that women are more likely to develop the disease than men. There are also **PROTECTIVE FACTORS**. People with higher education, broader social networks and who are more physically & mentally active are less likely to develop dementia; or at least may develop it later.

Milder memory difficulties can be caused by other treatable physical & mental health conditions, such as thyroid disruptions, pain, diabetes, depression and anxiety. Maintaining a balanced diet that is low in saturated fats is also better for your cognitive functioning. Finally, stress affects memory. A

little bit of stress helps raise us to our challenges; but too much stress, too often impairs memory. The good news is that these effects can be reversed. Try to mitigate your stress levels by taking a yoga or meditation class, or less formally by taking walks or naps.

The more **physical & cognitive activity** we include in our daily routines, the healthier and more robust our brains are. People who have larger **social networks** also function better than those who lead more lonely lives. **Time of day** has powerful effects on memory. Use your 'peak' time to do more demanding tasks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

What can you do to help your memory? **External aids** such as lists, notes and pill organizers are helpful. Other useful aids are other people ("Hey, honey, remind me to pick up the dry cleaning") & a "memory place", a place in your home to keep things that you need every day, like keys, wallet & glasses. Use a date book and take it **WITH YOU**. **Internal strategies** are also very helpful. Make **associations** between something you are trying to remember & something you already know. e.g. when you meet someone new, think about who else you know with that name. Use **visual imagery**: Make a mental picture of something you are trying to remember. e.g. Use "see it and say it". Say out loud: "I'm going to get my book" & picture yourself picking it up from your night stand table. **Repeat** the information, but be sure to do so at multiple, spaced time points - repeating it over & over without a break won't help. e.g. If someone introduces himself as David, say "Nice to meet you, David". A little later on, use his name in conversation, such as "How do you know Susan, David?" Do this a few more times and his name will stick.

Memory does decline with age, but there are things we can do to minimize the loss. Get your physical and mental condition into shape, use external memory aids & internal memory strategies and you should notice improvements. If you see someone with serious memory lapses, encourage them to talk to their doctor.

BAYCREST OFFERS A 5 WEEKLY SESSION COURSE CALLED THE MEMORY AND AGING PROGRAMME.

Fee \$95.00. To register or get more information, call Ruby @ 416-785-2500 # 2445 www.baycrest.org

GET INVOLVED!

Participating in research is a great way to stay cognitively active! Baycrest is currently recruiting adults aged 65-90 for a series of studies examining cognitive abilities. Some studies involve a neuropsychological evaluation. If you are eligible for & take part in these studies, you will have the opportunity to receive feedback about the status of your memory & other thinking abilities relative to what is expected for your age. Some studies involve having an MRI to observe your brain in action!! Call Andrea or Sarah @ 416-785-2500 # 3363 if you would like to be involved in these studies.



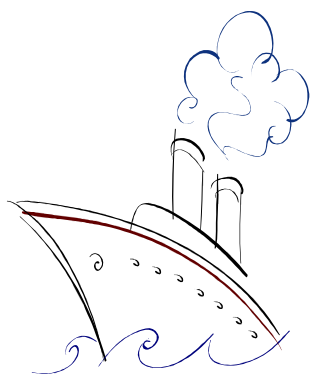
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APRIL 27-MAY 15, 2011

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aboard MS NOORDAM: HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

Vision 2000 Travel Group

Novices, Intermediates & all levels of bridge players welcome



	ARRIVE	DEPART
Apr 27: Fly to Ft Lauderdale: Overnight		
Apr 28: Board MS Noordam		5 pm
Apr 29: At Sea		
Apr 30: At Sea		
May 1: At Sea		
May 2: At Sea		
May 3: At Sea		
May 4: At Sea		
May 5: Ponta Delgada, Azores	8 am	5 pm
May 6: At Sea		
May 7: At Sea		
May 8: Cadiz (Seville) Spain	7 am	5 pm
May 9: Almeria (Granada) Spain	9 am	7 pm
May 10: Valencia, Spain	10 am	6 pm
May 11: Barcelona, Spain	7 am	overnight
May 12: Barcelona, Spain	overnight	5 pm
May 13: Monte Carlo, Monaco	10 am	6 pm
May 14: Civitavecchia (Rome) Italy	7 am	hotel in Rome
May 15: Fly home		



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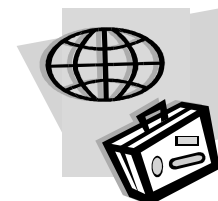
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Mail to...Barbara Seagram, 220 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto, ON M4N 1T2

OUR TRAVEL CAREER

Barbara and Alex have been escorting bridge groups around the world for 28 years. For the past approximately 15 years, we have been privileged to have Patti Lee join us on these trips. Patti adds so much to our groups as she is a very special person. Barbara is a licensed travel agent and has worked with Vision 2000 Travel for almost 25 years. Alex is our bridge guru who packs and carries the bags!

Alex & Barbara have had well over 50 cruises and have been to over 100 countries. We are so lucky to have so many fabulous travel clients from all over North America who join our groups. We have had so much fun, seen so many wonderful things and met such great people.

When we are escorting a group, it means that we have actually done all the legwork as well. It is not just cruising, midnight buffets and afternoon tea. It means planning air seats, hotel rooms, shore excursions, cabins. It means hours of work into the wee hours of each night communicating with Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Australia. You name it. It has actually been a second full-time job for Barbara. Four to six hours of almost every day is devoted to travel details. We love it; we thrive on it but with the glamour comes serious sleep deprivation. (I have put in a word to try to have an extra hour put in each day but that hasn't materialized yet!)

You will see below the trips that we still have planned in 2010 and 2011. We have come to a decision that those will be our last groups as travel agents escorting groups. Of course we will continue to do some travelling but not as tour escorts (with the exception of Briars which we plan to continue).

In March 2010, we are taking a group of 44 to South Africa and Kenya and stopping in seven countries on the trip. Off to France for a river boat trip in May with a group. These are sold out.

In February 2011, we are taking a group to Vietnam and Cambodia sailing on a brand new ship. It is a 23 day trip. This will be such an exciting adventure. The ship takes only 92 passengers and will soon be sold out. The cruise line is already trying to recall some of our blocked space. Vietnam and Cambodia are hotspots right now...very popular travel destinations. Please do join us. Let us know right away, please.

From April 28-May 15, 2011, we will be taking a group on a 19 day Transatlantic/Mediterranean cruise aboard another new ship: Holland America's MS Noordam. There will be lots of bridge played along with lots of lessons and seminars on all those days at sea. The prices on this trip are phenomenal. VERY reasonable, even for singles.

Do call Barbara right now if you are interested in booking one of these exciting 2011 trips. They will be our swan songs. We promise to take excellent care of you at and away from the bridge table. Email Barbara at bseagram@ca.inter.net 416-487-8321
You do not need to travel with a bridge partner. We will take care of all your bridge & (some of!) your personal needs.

DUMMY'S RIGHTS (& WRONGS!!)

We won't get into this in great detail but here is a situation that seems to crop up a lot. Certain dummies think they are way better at play of the hand than their declaring partners. While it is natural to be supportive of your partner, it must not extend to assisting partner in any way. Helping partner to choose the right card from dummy is not on the list of allowable deeds. Alex says in Mexico, you get shot for this!

If you want to tap the table to remind partner that he/she is in dummy, then tap the whole table with both hands, not just with one finger as this may accidentally point to a card you are keen for partner to play!

BRIDGE DEFENCE – WHAT'S GOING ON

by MIKE LAWRENCE www.michaelslawrence.com

NORTH

J7
K642
AQ83
K104

WEST EAST

AK864
A87
9
J975



You are West. You lead the Ace of spades & East plays the nine. Is East saying he likes spades or is it a suit preference for diamonds? What is your plan?

Why?

In defence, there are three messages you can give your partner.

- You can give an attitude signal saying you like or dislike what he is doing.
- You can give a count signal telling him how many cards you have in a particular suit.
- And you can give a suit preference signal telling him indirectly which suit you would like him to shift to.

Here is a useful rule which should help you sort out what is going on.

RULE:

A suit preference signal takes a back seat to BOTH of the other signals.

A suit preference signal is always the last interpretation. Partner's nine of spades is therefore encouraging, showing the queen. Remember the bidding? Partner raised spades. He is not showing a doubleton. Your plan therefore is to lead your singleton diamond and then later to put partner in with the queen of spades for a diamond ruff (*when you win the lead with Ace of hearts*)

Here's the whole hand:

J7
K642
AQ83
K104

AK864
A87
9
J975



Q953
95
J2
Q8632

W	N	E	S
1S	Dbl	2S	4H
Pass	Pass	Pass	

102
QJ102
K107654
A

Here is the winning defence. Once you think of it, it isn't too hard to find.

The key is not to lose track of the bidding. If you forgot that partner raised spades, you will realize that the nine of spades can't be a doubleton.

Following the rule above, the nine of spades can only be an encouraging card telling you he has the queen of spades.

NOTE: A suit preference card is usually defined as an unusually emphatic card. If East absolutely wants a diamond shift, he has to play the queen.

NOTE: If East has QJ5, he will play the queen, which shows the jack. The queen will be interpreted as suit preference only when west can tell that East doesn't have the jack. On this hand, the jack is in the dummy so East could play the queen and be sure of getting a diamond shift if he needed one.

RIVER BOAT BRIDGE CRUISE: VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & THE RICHES OF THE MEKONG DELTA



FEB 6-28, 2011

**Escorted by Barbara Seagram, Patti Lee & Alex Kornel
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Feb 6: Fly from Toronto (or from your own home city) to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) **Feb 7: Arrive HO CHI MINH CITY (D)**

Feb 8: HO CHI MINH CITY. Morning drive through typical southern Vietnamese countryside to Tay Ninh province. Visit Cao Dai Temple, a fusion of different religions that combines the mixture of elements from other world religions, observe noon service. Later, visit famous Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible underground tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the long struggle for independence. (B,L)

Feb 9: HO CHI MINH CITY – DA NANG – HOI AN Fly to Da Nang, Vietnam's fourth largest city. Visit ancient trading town of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B,D)

Feb 10: HOI AN. Walking tour of town's most famous landmarks, Hoi An Museum, old Chinese Merchants' houses, Assembly Hall and the Japanese Covered Bridge. Then, travel by sampan on the Thu Bon River or spend leisure time on the beautiful sandy beach of Cua Dai. (B,L)

Feb 11: HOI AN. Red Bridge Cooking tour in Hoi An. Visit colorful local village market and herb garden. Learn how to prepare some of Vietnam's best-known dishes in this hands-on experience, and enjoy the lunch you have prepared. Observe the local life along the river, as you take a boat ride on the Hoi An River before returning to the hotel. (B,L)

Feb 12: HOI AN – DANANG – HUE. Leaving behind the peaceful atmosphere of Hoi An, travel north to Da Nang and Hue. En route, visit Marble Mountains and enjoy a scenic view from the pagoda located inside the mountain. Visit a stone-cutting craft village nearby before continuing to Da Nang for a tour and visit to the Cham Museum. Continue heading north with a stop at scenic Lang Co Beach. Cross the beautiful Hai Van Pass, before arriving in Hue, the ancient capital of Vietnam, whose monuments have earned it a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. (B,L)

Feb 13: HUE. Boat trip along the serene Perfume River to visit Thien Mu Pagoda, the best known pagoda in central Vietnam. Then, drive to the Tomb of former Emperor Minh Mang, visit the elaborate tomb of Emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh, and the Royal Citadel with its Imperial Purple City. (B,L)

Feb 14: HUE – HANOI: FLY TO HANOI, VIETNAM. Welcome to Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant capital city, known for its graceful colonial architecture, frenetic streets, verdant parks and ancient temples. After your airport greeting, transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to explore the city on your own, or perhaps, visit the fabled Old Quarter (B,D)

Feb 15: HANOI. A morning sightseeing tour will take you to Hanoi's most famous historical and cultural sites: Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ba Dinh Square, One-pillar Pagoda and The Temple of Literature. In the afternoon, experience an authentic rickshaw ride (known as "cyclo") in the Old Quarter, followed by a traditional water puppet show. (B)

Feb 16: HANOI – HA LONG BAY OVERNIGHT JUNK. After breakfast, depart Hanoi for a scenic motorcoach ride to one of Vietnam's most renowned locations: Ha Long Bay. Board a traditional wooden Junk that combines classic beauty with modern conveniences, plus luxurious overnight accommodations. Set sail to discover the Bay's magnificent scenery set amidst stunning limestone cliffs. That evening, you'll enjoy dinner onboard, and overnight on the Junk. (B,L,D)

Feb 17: HA LONG BAY – HANOI – SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA. This morning, your Ha Long Bay Junk continues its scenic cruising while a delightful breakfast is served in the dining lounge. Late morning, disembark for a motorcoach transfer to Hanoi Airport. After a short flight, arrive in Siem Reap, Cambodia, gateway to Angkor, the former capital of the Khmer empire and one of the most renowned archeological sites in all of South East Asia. (B,L,D)

Feb 18: **SIEM REAP – ANGKOR.** After breakfast, begin a guided sightseeing tour of the Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Highlights include Angkor Thom, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King, Bayon. This afternoon, visit the most iconic of all Angkorian temples - Angkor Wat. (B,D)

Feb 19: SIEM REAP – ANGKOR. This morning, travel through rural countryside to the pink sandstone temple of Banteay Srei. Then visit Ta Prohm, the temple famous for its intertwined trees (showcased in the film Tomb Raider). (B)

Feb 20: SIEM REAP – TONLE SAP LAKE/EMBARKATION – KAMPONG CHHNANG. Travel to Tonle Sap Lake to embark the luxurious MS La Marguerite. Enjoy your Welcome Dinner onboard as you cruise to Kampong Chhnang. The ship moors overnight.

(B,L,D)

Feb 21: KAMPONG CHHNANG – KAMPONG CHAM. After breakfast, enjoy a motor boat excursion into the lakeside wetlands that form the mouth of the Tonle Sap River. Enjoy a stunning variety of birdlife, and observe numerous great fish traps, some over a half-mile long. Later, the ship enters the jungle as the river narrows. Temples abound along the riverbanks offer a unique opportunity to observe the rich tapestry of Cambodian rural life. Arrive in the capital city of Phnom Penh in the afternoon and enter the Upper Mekong bound for Kampong Cham. The ship makes an afternoon stop, in time for a walk through the quaint silk-weaving village of Chong Kho. Overnight, the ship moors mid-stream in Kampong Cham.

(B,L,D)

Feb 22: KAMPONG CHAM – PHNOM PENH. This morning, journey upriver to the hilltop pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey. Over lunch, sail back downstream to explore the Kampong Cham area. Travel by motorcoach to the 12th-century Angkorian temple of Wat Nokor, which has been “fused” with a modern Wat. Continue by motorcoach to the Eco-village of Cheung Kok. The ship departs late in the afternoon from Kampong Cham, arriving at Phnom Penh for an overnight mid-stream mooring.

(B,L,D)

Feb 23: PHNOM PENH. Early morning, the ship cruises into spectacular Phnom Penh and docks at the passenger port terminal. A morning tour explores the highlights of Cambodia’s capital city, famous for its French colonial architecture, busy cafés, vibrant nightlife and renovated river “corniche.” Visit the Royal Palace and the spectacular Silver Pagoda. The National Museum is another highlight, with outstanding displays of Khmer crafts. After lunch onboard, another excursion leads to the infamous Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge’s grim Tuol Sleng or S21 Detention Center (Genocide Museum) situated in the suburbs of the city. An overnight on the waterfront provides an opportunity to dine in one of many nearby restaurants, and experience Phnom Penh’s vibrant nightlife, should passengers so choose.

(B,L,D)

Feb 24: PHNOM PENH – BORDER CROSSING – TAN CHAU, VIETNAM. Spend the day cruising the Mekong River, stopping at the jungle village of Preak Dach to visit fruit orchards before continuing to the Cambodian/Vietnamese border. The ship moors overnight mid-stream in Tan Chau.

(B,L,D)

Feb 25 : TAN CHAU – SA DEC. After breakfast, transfer via small boats to the pier, where a trishaw awaits to transport you around Tan Chau. Visit a mat-making workshop and silk-coloring workshop. Back at the pier, embark on a local boat for a channel cruise and visit to a fish farm before returning to the ship. Overnight mid-stream on the Mekong near Sa Dec.

(B,L,D)

Feb 26: SA DEC – HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON). After breakfast, board small local boats for the village of Sa Dec, where you will enjoy a morning stroll. Noteworthy as the town where the French writer (and our ship’s namesake) Marguerite Duras spent some of her childhood, Sa Dec is a sprawling town on the Mekong Delta. Visit the house of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, Duras’ Chinese paramour, which is now a small museum. After lunch onboard, the ship continues cruising to Cai Be. A local Junk trip in the afternoon will take you to Cai Be’s spectacular floating market; then go ashore to see the French Gothic Cathedral and visit delightful flower gardens, ancient Kiet House and local rice paper manufacturers. In the evening, cruise to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, while enjoying a sunset cocktail party and gourmet Farewell Dinner onboard.

(B,L,D)

Feb 27: HO CHI MINH CITY – DISEMBARK. In the early morning, the ship docks at the Saigon River Frontage. As the capital of the French colony of Cochinchina, Saigon was known as “Paris of the Orient.” Today, Vietnam’s largest city is an industrial, cultural and educational hub, but still retains vestiges of its colonial past. After breakfast, disembark for a city tour that explores famous landmarks, such as the former Presidential Palace, Central Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral; Cho Lon (China Town) and its famous Binh Tay market and Thien Hau pagoda. Overnight at a luxurious hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.

(B,L)

Feb 28: DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY. Transfer to the airport for your homebound flight.

(B)

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