



Barbara Seagram hails from Barbados, West Indies. She was educated in Barbados and then graduated from the University of New Brunswick with her Bachelor of Nursing degree. Barbara used to teach nursing & now teaches bridge in Toronto, Canada, with her husband, Alex Kornel.

Barbara started working for the Kate Buckman Bridge Studio in 1975, doing administration and marketing. In 1990, she and her husband, Alex Kornel, bought the club which subsequently, under their ownership, became the largest bridge club in Canada and the fourth largest on the continent. In 2006, it was named by ACBL as the top Bridge Club in North America. The club ran every single possible event and held many charity events while running 25 games a week. (*They sold the club in 2006.*)

Barbara now owns and runs a School of Bridge in Toronto. They teach tens of thousands of students a year at all levels. Barbara and Alex also travel all over the world teaching bridge and have now visited 167 countries. They love to spend time with the people and nationalities of so many diverse countries. Their real passions are Africa, Cambodia and Laos. In Cambodia, Patti Lee and Barbara (with the help of the bridge communities of Toronto, Collingwood, Haliburton, London, Kitchener Mexico, California and beyond) have built and now sustain five schools there, as well as having outreach programs for victims of landmine accidents. In Laos, they fundraise for water filters and have schools there also, working through the NGO, Adopt a Village in Laos. Barbara and her colleague, Patti Lee take turns visiting Cambodia and Laos and teach English in the schools while checking up on their projects in both countries. Barbara and Alex also have foster children in Burkina Faso (a small landlocked nation in West Africa) and Barbara has visited them there and will return again in 2019 to visit again.

Seagram has been the recipient of a number of awards in bridge: The Kate Buckman Award, given to the person who has contributed most to others' enjoyment of the game and the most recent being the Audrey Grant Award for teaching. She is a Sapphire Life Master (3500 + points) and a frequent speaker at NABC's. She was recently named # 40 on the list of the top 52 bridge personalities that have most influenced the game.

Seagram served on the Unit 166 Board of Directors for 16 years and was also on the District 1 board and the ACBL Board of Governors for many years. She was on the ACBL Future of Bridge Committee from 1996-1998. She was a co-founder (one of two) of the Zero Tolerance program.

Barbara is the co-author of 26 published bridge books; the most well-known being “25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know” which won Book of the Year award from A.B.T.A. (American Bridge Teachers’ Association). This is now in its 23rd. printing and has been translated into French, German, Japanese and Danish. This book has been named one of the top five best-selling books of the last 50 years.

Barbara tirelessly promotes bridge wherever she goes in the world. She jokes: “It is my solution to world peace!” She also has mentored many players as students and as teachers and directors. Many of the classes that she teaches are done for charity; either for a local charity or to raise funds for Cambodia or Laos or both.

Barbara is also very active in the American Bridge Teachers’ Association. She is passionate about marketing events of all sorts and writes a monthly newsletter, advertizing all upcoming events and including lots of bridge articles in order to further students’ knowledge at the same time. She sends this out to 5500 of her former and current students. She loves to support local bridge events and community causes. More than anything, she loves to play bridge and would do so morning, noon and night, given a chance, with her favorite partner, her husband, Alex.

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