

**Three Years in the Making**  
**by Barbara Carson**  
**Snowmass Village, CO**

My bridge playing started just out of college when a roommate asked me to fill in as a 12<sup>th</sup> person in a “party” bridge game. I had never played bridge before and was reluctant, but she insisted it would be fun and they would all help me. It was fun and I was hooked. I learned the game from others, read Goren, and continued playing for a few more years until work and family responsibilities intervened. Thirty years later I decided to start playing again and went to a local bridge club in San Diego for duplicate lessons. Bridge practices had changed – now there weak 2 bids and many new conventions like Jacoby transfers. I signed up for a membership in ACBL and started playing in local duplicate games. After retirement, we spent summers and winters in CO and spring and fall in Las Vegas, and I found wonderful partners in both areas. We would occasionally travel to tournaments and I started to get some of the colored master points. I never thought I would become a Life Master and didn’t really have it as a goal until a few years ago when one of my regular partners got hers. After a regional in the fall of 2017, I was only .55 gold away. When COVID hit and clubs shut down, I didn’t think there was going to be any opportunity to get those last few gold points. But I started playing bridge on BBO and our Aspen Bridge Club held virtual games three times/week. Later, they held a few games where you could earn ¼ of the points in gold. And finally, after three years of waiting, I got the gold points I needed. While I miss playing in-person games at our club, I really enjoy playing with my friends on BBO. And I thank BBO, ACBL, the Aspen Bridge Club and all my partners for the opportunity to continue playing the game I love.