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### **Susan Perez and Michael Bono Winners Of Bridge Builders Award for 2019**

(October 3, 2019) The St. Louis Bridge Center is pleased to announce that Susan Perez and Michael Bono are winners of the 2019 Bridge-BUILDER Awards, which were established to honor the duplicate bridge players whose honesty, integrity, competence, zeal, and leadership – in short, professionalism – have earned the respect of the duplicate bridge playing community. Perez is the winner in the experienced-player category; Bono is relatively new to the game.

John Hagedorn, president of the St. Louis Bridge Center, commented: “Susan and Michael represent the best of the Bridge Center. They’re friendly, honest, respectful of others, constantly work to improve their own game, and to inspire others to improve their game, too. We’re delighted to honor Susan and Michael with this award.”

Perez, born and raised in the St. Louis area, learned bridge when she was 15 years old. She loved it and became president of her high school bridge club. However, contrary to the norm for budding bridge addicts, she abandoned the game in college. After becoming a young widow in her early 30’s, she took up duplicate bridge, and has never looked back.

Perez commented: “I retired exactly one year ago after working 34 years as an executive secretary at the Jewish Community Center. I played my first game of daytime bridge as a retiree on the following Monday, and do believe I have played almost every single day since. I have made lifelong friends at the bridge table, and have had the good fortune to play with many wonderful players – who amazingly continue to put up with me!”

Bono, also born and raised in St. Louis, is married with two children and two grandchildren. He spent his career in banking, mostly in the accounting and finance areas, and retired in 2012. About four years ago, he took an introductory bridge class at a community college, and followed up with additional beginning classes at the St. Louis Bridge Center. The instructors there encouraged him to join the Chat Game, during which players can ask the director for assistance.

Bono stated: “This introductory game was instrumental in both my learning process and comfort level.”

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Bono continued: “An unexpected by-product of the game is the number of friends I have made. The bridge world is made up of very friendly and interesting people. That as much as anything keeps me coming back. Also another factor which adds to the enjoyment is the St Louis Bridge Center itself. It is run in a professional and organized manner, yet offers a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.”

The St. Louis Bridge Center, a not-for-profit organization established in 2012, was ranked the seventh largest bridge club in the country for 2018. It is located at 1270 North Price Road, St. Louis, MO 63132, and is the premier place in St. Louis to enjoy the game of duplicate bridge, with 75 tables available for players of all skill levels in a well-lit setting. Amenities include computer-generated hands, automatic scoring pads, hand records, free snacks, coffee, and iced tea. The bridge center holds regular classes, including the ACBL Bridge Series, Adult Beginner’s Bridge, and Learn Bridge in a Day. It also hosts nationally recognized teachers and authors, including Barbara Seagram, Audrey Grant, Jerry Helms, Larry Cohen, and Phillip Alder.

More information and the game schedule can be found on Facebook and at [www.stlouisbridge.org](http://www.stlouisbridge.org).

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**1270 North Price Road, St. Louis, MO 63132  
(1/2 mile North of Olive on Price)  
[www.stlouisbridge.org](http://www.stlouisbridge.org)  
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