



Bridge - The Game That Gives Back

## Levine Receives the 2025 ACBL Charity Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award

During the 2025 spring NABC, members of the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee gathered Monday evening for the Goodwill Reception, where awards were presented to the Charity Foundation Volunteer of the Year, Honorary Member of the Year, the Volunteer of the Year, and the Goodwill Member of the Year.

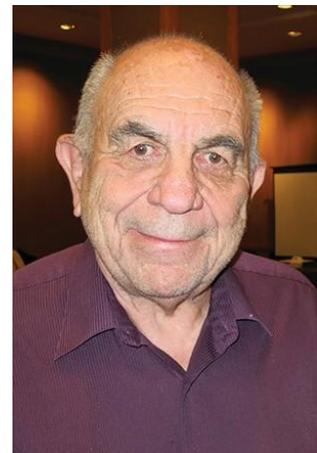
Mike Levine of Boca Raton, FL was selected by the ACBL Charity Foundation as the 2025 Charity Foundation Volunteer of the Year. Levine is a philanthropist who has donated to numerous causes both within the bridge world and in the world at large. Last year he was inducted into the Hall of Fame with the Blackwood Award for his service to the bridge world. Levine's philanthropic endeavors reflect his wide-ranging interests and deep concern for societal well-being.

Among them are Patty Tucker's Jump Start Bridge program, the research of Samantha Punch and clubs that have struggled since the pandemic. He has backed several documentaries, three of them bridge-related, with others tackling subjects such as the Holocaust. He has made significant contributions to education, notably funding scholarships at Florida Atlantic University.

While the Blackwood Award honored Levine's contributions to the bridge community, the Charity Foundation award recognizes his work outside. The award is presented to a member who actively translates compassion into meaningful community improvement through volunteerism with non-bridge-related activities.

"Mike Levine stands as a testament to the transformative power of purposeful philanthropy, blending a spirit of generosity with a keen focus on empowering others," the Charity Foundation wrote in its announcement of the award. "His 'hand up' philosophy underscores his commitment to providing opportunities rather than handouts, fostering self-sufficiency and long-term growth in those he supports. This approach has resonated deeply, inspiring a ripple effect of giving within and beyond the bridge community. "

Beyond his philanthropic work, Levine is a highly accomplished inventor, holding approximately 80 patents. He developed the architecture of the microprocessor, the programmable thermostat, the onscreen TV channel guide, digital video recording and self-



Mike Levine

teaching programs for learning a foreign language. His innovations, particularly in plastics recycling, demonstrate his dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

“We as a society owe a lot to him,” said Eddie Wold, who has played with Levine since 2016. “Mike just tries to make the world a better place. That’s the way he goes through life, trying to help however he can.”

Levine is a highly accomplished bridge player. He has eight NABC+ titles, five second-place finishes, three national online titles and a silver medal in world competition.

“This combination of philanthropic generosity, innovative thinking and bridge prowess makes Mike Levine a truly exceptional individual, worthy of recognition,” the announcement said.

The ACBL Charity Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in communities served by ACBL members by providing financial support to non-bridge-related charitable organizations.

Levine’s award was presented by Mitch Dunitz, last year’s Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year.

“Each and every one of you have made our game better,” said Dunitz. “You can look in the mirror and feel good about yourself.”

Dunitz spoke about the Charity Foundation and its goal to “quietly make the world a better place.” He called Mike Levine “an amazing guy who doesn’t call attention to himself and does a lot of good things, and not just for the bridge world.”

Eddie Wold accepted the award for Levine.

“Mike was sorry he couldn’t be here tonight,” said Wold.

“Mike is practically blind due to advanced macular degeneration and has a hard time traveling if direct flights aren’t available.

“Mike is an inspiration. What he does for his local community is above and beyond. Among his many endeavors, recently in Michigan, he was involved with a project called Rails to Trails, which turns abandoned railways into trails. Mike, who cannot see, created a trail from one side of Michigan to the other.

“I know he is thankful for the recognition.”



Mitch Dunitz and Eddie Wold