

## President's Message



Reconnect During the Holiday Season.

While playing with my favorite partner, Mr. Scottish Terrier, he introduced me to Ann Peterson, a Rossmoor bridge player. Ann has been playing online with Marva Fairchild and the two had never met, but became good 'virtual' friends. Marva and her husband drove west to visit Ann and San Francisco. On October 24 Marva and Ann were able to play duplicate together in person at Rossmoor.

Wow, what an incredible connection!

Do you have a virtual partner? Maybe you can connect and play a F2F game. Maybe you have a partner that you can introduce to another club or to a special bridge event.

Make a new connection. Enjoy friends.

**Good for Nothing** award recipients:

Bruce Johnsonbaugh     Judy Keilin     Lisa Assoni     Mark Humphrey

Recall that the 'Good for Nothing' award is not for someone who does nothing but for someone who does tasks without expectation of award or recognition.

Future events.

- Jan 1 - Jan 7; Monterey Clambake Regional Tournament.
- Annual Unit 499 Membership meeting; March 3, 2024 in Rossmoor.
- Tunnel Tournament changed to Saturday, April 27, 2024
- Early April 2024; Vance Seminar. April 13, 2024. Topic 'Hand Evaluation.' More on this next time.

Have fun, play nice, bid and make all your 7NTs.

Sam Earnhardt

# ...from the Editor

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It's a struggle to come up with my From the Editor column every month. I actually forgot it completely a few days ago when I sent this month's articles to Mary for publishing.

I guess no news is good news! Our games at clubs are returning, so the social aspect of bridge is back. I even made reservations for a few days at the Monterey Regional-first Regional for us since Covid. That has always been my favorite tournament. It's a short drive, nice venue, and great restaurant in the area. I hope to see lots of you there.

Judy Keilin

Editor



## Unit 499 eDeclarer

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**Deadline for January is December 18**



Mary Krouse, Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at [Jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto:Jkeilin@pacbell.net)

Be sure to visit the unit website for more information on our clubs and events, as well as archives of our newsletters.

[diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc](http://diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc)

# Milestones and New Members

## ***MILESTONES***

### ***NEW CLUB MASTER (20)***

Christine Balaguer

### ***NEW LIFE MASTER (300/500)***

Kairong Michelson

### ***NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500/750)***

Susan Puccini

### ***NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER (1000)***

Patricia Perry

### ***NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTERS (3500)***

Brad Komsthoeft

Angie Murray



## ***NEW MEMBERS***

Craig Shibata

Nancy Shibata

Mary Kay Tullis

Let's greet these folks when you meet them at the tables or online.

# What Are You Hiding?

As we near the season to be jolly, it maybe gift-giving time. Some hide presents under a tree, while others celebrate for days, or mail them, and some just don't care.

Not everyone celebrates Christmas, but if you do, December is upon us and winter is near, so clean out your closets and bring out the cheer. Santas, pandas, and all the cute toys, put up a tree and have some tea, if you've got the energy. How about a Hot Toddy! Remember when lots of us celebrated the holiday season with this special drink? It seems to warm our hearts and give us comfort, all in one cup. Hum, I'm getting thirsty; it must be 5 o'clock somewhere!

So, what really should you be hiding? It's your bridge hand. If you don't cover your cards, and you don't think folks won't take a peak, you're not cookin' on all four burners.

I've done it, not intentionally, but I try and swiftly turn away, and tell the opponents to hide their cards. (*most of the time*). I've really only seen one pair cheat, pretty blatantly, and they were dismissed from the bridge center. Of course, there are the Italians, who, during a world championship, after winning, were discovered cheating. The directors reviewed a video of the game, and just with a minimal separation of their fingers, that indicated what card should be returned by partner. Of course the title was taken away.

So. It's imperative to be cautious at the bridge table, and don't assume someone can't see your cards OR overhear the bidding and outcome. Even when I groan, make a face, roll my eyes, or take a deep breath, they're all giveaways. Poker face is what we need!!

We've been busy at the Orinda bridge site. No one is hiding there. At Thursday morning's game, as people pack in, the tables are bursting. It's a great game, and lots of folks wanting to play in a great environment, with a great director and nice folks.

What's cooking? Please read the entire eDeclarer as it's filled with the latest information.

Wishing you all Happy, Healthful Holidays.

Lisa Assoni

The Shortcut Cook (R)



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

December, 2023

North

S Q105

H J3

D A9863

C K102

West

S J3

H K 10

D KQ10542

C Q86

East

S K82

H 97642

D J

C 9743



South

S A9764

H AQ85

D 7

C AJ5

P 1S 2D 3D

P 4S P P P

This deal was played by an opponent that was most likely a novice and didn't understand card combinations.

Having arrived at 4S, it looks like there are not many losers, but there also aren't many winners. On a bad day you could lose 2 spades, 1 heart and 1 club. Therefore, you would need to be careful how you go about playing this hand.

Our declarer won the A diamonds and led a spade to the A followed by a spade towards the dummy covering the J with the Q. East won the K and led his last spade putting declarer in dummy. At this point declarer led the J hearts losing to the K and trumped the diamond return. He then led a club to the K and a club back to the J losing to the Q and he trumped the diamond return ultimately losing his small heart at the end for down 1 and received 7%.

I don't have a problem with his play in spades, but due to the 2D bid by West, they should have most of the remaining points after East shows up with the K spades.

The card combination I am pointing out is in the heart suit. It can never be right to lead the J from dummy because a good defender would cover it and if they don't cover it then it would lose to the K. The right play in the heart suit is to lead towards the J, called an open finesse. If West takes the K then the J hearts is good and you get 3 hearts tricks. You would only lose 1 spade, 1 heart and maybe 1 club but again playing West for the Q you don't lose a club, making 5 for a score of 79%. If you mis-guess clubs and make 4 you would get 43% so you can see that the field was playing it much better than our opponent.

Note also, some of you can spot a club diamond squeeze here.

Jerry Weitzner

# CLASSES

## Deb Rechnitz

### Declarer Play

This course will improve your ability to make your contracts. Learn how to take extra tricks as a Declarer.

Date: January 15th - March 4th (8 Sessions)  
Day and Time: Monday Mornings (10am - 12 pm)  
Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette  
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz (drechnitz@comcast.net)  
Cost: \$135

### Continuing Commonly Used Conventions

This course will explore Preemptive bids, Strong 2-Club Openings, Negative Doubles and Other Doubles as well as Blackwood and Gerber.

Date: January 15th - March 4th (8 Sessions)  
Day and Time: Monday Afternoons (1pm - 3pm)  
Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette  
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz (drechnitz@comcast.net)  
Cost: \$135

## Deb Rechnitz

On-going, drop-in play. We start with a short lesson followed by playing lots of hands. Meet lots of other bridge players in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Questions encouraged; no partner needed.

Day and Time: Wednesday Mornings 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Dates: Ongoing  
Location: Lafayette Recreation Center – 500 St. Mary's Road  
Instructors: Carol Griffin nobidd45@gmail.com -and-  
Deb Rechnitz drechnitz@comcast.net

## Debby Rechnitz

## Carol Griffin

At the Orinda Community Center:925

**The Defense/"Heart" class-part II** which starts at 10am to noon from Jan 9-Feb 27

Part II covers signals, interfering with declarer, making a defensive plan, developing extra tricks for the defense, and negative doubles. We will be spending two weeks on each topic with lots of hands that demonstrate that week's lesson.

**Rusty Bridge** starts at 1-3 pm from Jan 9-Feb 27

This class was developed to give the students the chance to thoroughly review good clear bidding while putting to practice what they have learned with lots of hands to play.

At the Lafayette Community Center (925 284-2232)

**The "Diamond" Supervised** class starts at 10am – noon from Jan 11-Feb 29

This class was developed to give the students much more practice with the lessons learned having taken the Diamond (**Play of the Hand**) course. Eight hands are played each class, with a mini lesson that relates to the topic.

**Beginner Bridge, The "Club" Series**-starts at 1pm -3 pm from Jan 11-Feb 29

The class is for absolute beginners or those who want to learn the right way from the beginning. This course will cover how to evaluate a hand, open the bidding, responses, rebids by opener and rebids by responder. We will also cover an introduction to competitive bidding with Overcalls and Takeout doubles. There will be four hands to play which demonstrate that week's lesson.

If one has any questions, please call the community centers for more info and if still not satisfied please don't hesitate to visit Carol's website at <https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com/> or call her at 925 933 3535

And don't forget all year round Carol runs a **Drop-in Bridge** every Wednesday from 10-noon at Lafayette Community Center to play social bridge, meet new people, practice what you've learned in a class or just get help whenever you need it while you are playing by asking Carol or Debbie. There is always a mini lesson before the game.

Carol Griffin

# Club News

This section is for club owners and managers who wish to submit news about their games. Please go to our website for information about all our clubs, game times, and to check on the latest results.

[Diablovalleybridge.com](http://Diablovalleybridge.com)

## Overtricks by the Bay

193 Griffith Lane  
Brentwood

OVERTRICKS BY THE BAY has officially started at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center. Game time is 9am on Tuesdays. Table fees will be \$5 to start and \$4 after a short period.

Mark Marty ([thatsafire@gmail.com](mailto:thatsafire@gmail.com)) or  
925-487-7832)



## Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club  
Contact Lilah Newton at  
925-648-3154  
[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)

The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge game is held on the first and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Blackhawk Country Club. Game time is 9:30, reservations are required.

The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge has a change in the date of our December Holiday Party. This year we are having our party the 2nd Wednesday, December 13, in the main dining room and we are inviting our gentleman friends. Our game will start at 9:30 and end around 2:30. We will have a delicious salad entree lunch and cup of soup, followed by passed Belgian chocolates. Everyone is welcome but you must make a reservation. If you would like to play please contact:

Lilah Newton  
925-648-3154

[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)

Lilah Newton

Sharon Tarpinian  
925-736-2461

[enchantment-s@comcast.net](mailto:enchantment-s@comcast.net)





## DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall



The Danville game is held every Friday at 9:30am, excluding holidays.

The game is limited to players with less than 2500 points, and meets at the Veterans Hall in Danville. Entrance to game is on Prospect Avenue.

Michael Gosnell



## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor

### ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

December 4-9 - Holiday STaC Week -\$1 extra

December 11 - **11:30**, **HOLIDAY LUNCH**, Annual Meeting and Election before game. **Members only.**

December 16 - **SWISS TEAMS** - sign up in advance at any game!

Kit Miller



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

[cbridgecenter@gmail.com](mailto:cbridgecenter@gmail.com) • [diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc](http://diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc)

## December News

**Lots of Special games in December** – see below. All of the special games below pay extra MasterPoints, at no additional charge to players (except for StaC, which is an extra \$1).

**December 4-7** Royal StaC (1/4 each gold, red, silver and black MPs), extra \$1

**December 11-14** – Club championships

**Sunday, December 17** – holiday party (unit game). Doors open at 12:45; game planned for 1:30. Sign-ups for reservations are now closed.

**December 18-21** – Club membership games (only ACBL members are eligible to win MPs)

**December 25 (Monday)** – no game, Christmas

Regular club games will be held on December 27 and 28. (No game on Monday, January 1).

**Game Cancellation** – CCBC has cancelled the on-line (BBO) game on Fridays due to low participation. We may add a new BBO game in January. We welcome input on the best day/time and MP level for any such game.

CCBC continues its schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda. **CCBC is now hosting games on Mondays & Wednesdays (open at 11:00), and Thursdays (999er at 10:30) at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road.**

*Thank you for your support of CCBC!*

Michael Kruley



# Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

**The next time we will begin new Sessions of our Classes will be the week of January 8, 2024.**

Mondays: Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

**The next time we will begin new Sessions of our Classes will be the week of January 8, 2024.**

Mondays: **Beginning Bidding** 9:30-11:30am; **Play of the Hand** 7-9pm

Wednesdays: **Defense** 7-9pm

Classes: 9 weeks, \$200 includes ACBL Textbook: (LBC Students may repeat a class for \$100 per course.)

Also on Mondays from 1pm - 3pm we are presenting Single Topic Seminars:

**List of special topics and expected dates** (slight changes in scheduled presentation may made at the request of our students). \$20 per session, reservations recommended.

December 4 No Session.

December 11 4th Suit Forcing (FSF).

December 18 Inverted Minor Convention and the subsequent auction

No classes for the rest of December.

**For the 2024 year:**

January 8 Two club opening bids and responder: step, 2D waiting, controls.

January 15 Reverse bidding.

January 22 Competing/sacrificing; Tools to help you judge when and when NOT. Vulnerability helps

January 29 Jacoby 2NT.

February 5 Blackwood.

February 12 Key Card Slam Auctions.

Please note that we focus in the beginning on lower-level conventions which occur often. The higher the level of bidding the less often these actually occur at the table so it is to your competitive benefit to learn and UNDERSTAND all of these conventions and treatments over time for when they are used against you during the bidding process.

To assist in your learning process Lamorinda Bridge Club will host a Wednesday afternoon game that will feature a **selection of hands from the Monday afternoon topic** mixed in with other randomly dealt hands. This is important as often when one learns something new it may be several bridge games before you encounter it at the bridge table, and you may not even recognize it unless you practice it right away to understand it better.

Jerry will entertain special requests of topics and will reserve the right to alter the above schedule accordingly. We will send out updates on the schedule in coming months to announce possible changes.

#### GAME SCHEDULE:

- Tuesdays: 3:00-5:30pm, Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 599** Game; \$10 table fee.
- Tuesdays: 7-9:45pm **Open** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.  
Optional Potluck Supper 5:45-6:45pm, \$5.
- Fridays: 10am - 1:15pm, **Limited 699** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

Beginning January 10:

- Wednesdays: 3-5:30pm, Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 599** Game; \$10 table fee. **This game will include a selection of hands from the Monday Afternoon Special Topic Seminars** mixed in with other randomly dealt hands.

**As in the past, reservations will be required for all Face-to-Face duplicate games.** Wearing masks will be optional. (All games are awarded Master Points and have hand records available and posted on the results page at [www.https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973](http://www.https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973).)

Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

Lamorinda Bridge Club

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

(Home) 925-376-1125

Winnie: (Cell) 925-683-1908; [winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:winnie@wjasper.com)

Jerry: (Cell) 925-766-5228; [jerry@wjasper.com](mailto:jerry@wjasper.com)

**Please make your Class and Game Reservations with Winnie**

Please leave the equivalent of three parking spaces open in front of the house directly across the street from us. Thank you!