

# eDeclarer

July 2024

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



Two year's ago, as part of my 'get to know bridge players' routine, I chatted with Mr. Frog and Ms. Rabbit – both beginner players at that time (less than ten points). I checked in with them last week. Now they are playing, successfully I might add, in an intermediate game (999 or 699) - both beginner players who recently 'graduated' from a beginner series of classes.

Understanding the need to move from a beginner class to a more challenging bridge environment, Unit 499 will be hosting a beginner's game for all beginners in U499 and U502.

A flyer will be available at the various beginner classes and games that have 99er players in late July. Here are some of the specifics:

- Game date: Friday, September 13

- There will be a raffle:

  - Some excellent Convention books by Barbara Seagram

  - Mentoring game with Excellent Intermediate players

  - Comfortable atmosphere – all beginner players and two 'consultations with experts'

**Good for Nothing.** Chuck Silva is the "new-award winner" for his most excellent work on the Unit's new website. Visit the website at '[unit499.com](http://unit499.com)'. Award recipients:

Anne Hollingsworth

Bruce Johnsonbaugh

Judy Keilin

Lisa Assoni

Mark Humphrey

Mr Multipoo

Chuck Silva

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

- Unit 499 special game for beginners on Friday, September 13. More to come on this; watch for the flyer.

- Diablo Sectional: November 9 &10. Watch for the flyer.

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

Sam Earnhardt, PMP

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[President's Message](#) ..... 1  
[From The Editor](#) ..... 2  
[Unit 499 Milestones](#) ..... 3  
[Lisa's Article](#) ..... 4  
[Jerry's Hand](#) ..... 5  
[Lessons](#) ..... 6  
[Club News](#) ..... 8

**Unit 499 eDeclarer**

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to [jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto:jkeilin@gmail.com)

Volume 155

July 2024

**Deadline for August is July 18**

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at [jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto:jkeilin@gmail.com)

Mary Krouse, Publisher

## ...from the Editor

If you haven't already done so, check out the new Unit 499 website at [www.unit499.com](http://www.unit499.com). It's well-designed and easy to navigate, and has everything you need to know about our clubs, local and distant tournaments, classes, game results, special events, eDeclarer, and a great color-coded calendar of all the games in our unit. Thanks to Chuck Silva, Wayne Rechnitz, Sam Earnhardt, and Michael Kruley, as well as anyone else who contributed.

See you at the tables.

Judy Keilin

Editor



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

<https://www.unit499.com/>

# Milestones and New Members

## **MILESTONES**

### *NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)*

Anil Dhussa

### *NEW CLUB MASTER (20)*

Linda Zercher

### *NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)*

Michael Goldstein

Lily Zhou

### *NEW REGIONAL MASTER (100)*

Ronald Forney

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

Christie Noble

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Daniela Dixon

Bradley Mozee

Cynthia Pester

Alan Roth

Anita Roth

Yvonne Wu

Carl Nahm

Please welcome Marc when you meet him online or at the tables.



# SUMMER'S HERE, BRING OUT THE CHEER!

This special day was set aside as American Independence Day, commencing on the Fourth of July every year and representing the birth of the United States. I hope we'll all have a blast, as this special day demands barbecues, drinks, food, and friends. *That's if we're lucky.* OK, celebrate at home. Get take-out ribs, baked beans, and a salad. Now, with the virus behind us, you can party, or better yet, gather some friends for a home game of bridge. If all else fails, eat with your doggie or kitty, and make no bones about it. DO NOT give them any leftover bones of any kind.



What a game! We bitch, complain, and pitch the best cards to defeat contracts, lick our wounds, and maybe even jump for joy.

This came to my attention when I was playing bridge recently. I could hear subtle voices in my head saying "I'm so stupid, how dumb was that, and pay attention". OR, "I knew I should bid

Three-no-trump". When I hear all my lamenting, I realize that I too am a victim of my own mistakes, and besides degrading myself, I try and learn from messing up.

Enough already! Did you know we have a cool updated website? It's easy to use. Board members Chuck Silva and Wayne Rechnitz hope you'll check it out at [unit499.com](http://unit499.com).

Come on, we're nuts about this game! When clicking on the new website, don't forget the e-Declarer. You'll get up to speed with what's cookin'.

Lisa Assoni/ShortCut Cook



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

July, 2024

North

S AK103

H Q5

D 872

C KQ102

West

S 8762

H A7643

D 10

C J75

East

S J5

H J109

D KJ653

C 864

South

S Q94

H K82

D AQ94

C A93

1C P 3N P

P P

This deal occurred last week and although most would find it dull/routine I rather enjoyed the layout. I bid 3N (showing 13-15 balanced) in response to my partners 1C opening and West led the 4 hearts. The first hurdle is to play the Q from dummy and hope it holds which it did.

The second hurdle is to recognize that you have 8 sure tricks and that there is a possible extra trick in spades as well as clubs if the suits split three-three or the jack drops. Then there is a possible diamond finesse. So this contract looks very promising.

Seeing all those possibilities, there is one more and that is an end play against West. Watch what happens when you lead the 8 diamonds from dummy and play low from your hand ( unless East covers which forces you to play the Queen ).

West is now end played in all of the suits. If he leads a black card you get 4 tricks in that suit. If he leads a heart you get your K. If he leads a diamond it is into your tenace for two tricks.

I cannot remember a hand where I was able to end play an opponent at trick two!! Most end plays occur near or at the end of the hand.

As you can see from the actual hand everything possible works no matter what so you can take 4 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds by playing to the Q and 4 clubs for a total of 11 tricks.

Ultimately the end play didn't gain anything, just made me feel good to recognize the position. Most everybody made 5, there were a couple of people that made 6 so our result was average.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



# Carol Griffin Bridge



**At the Orinda Community Center: [\\_925.254.2445](tel:925.254.2445) (26 Orinda Way)**

## **Rusty Bridge Part I**

**Thurs., July 11-August 1**

**10am-Noon**

**This course** is specially designed for those who want to update their bidding skills, improve their communication with their partners, and/or revive their “college days” playing skills. It begins with a thorough basic bidding review, followed by an introduction to preemptive and slam bidding, the Stayman convention, leads against NT vs. Suit Contracts, bidding in the “balancing seat”, and the distinction between forcing and non-forcing bids. Each session will consist of 1/2 hour lecture and 1 1/2 hours of supervised play with pre-dealt hands that illustrate the subject of the day. A workbook is available from the instructor at a cost of \$15.

## **Slam Bidding**

**Thurs., July 11-August 1**

**1-3pm**

This 4-week course covers the many ways to investigate slam contracts using special conventions such as quantitative bidding, Roman Keycard Blackwood/Gerber, Cue bidding controls, Jacoby 2NT, and Splinter bids. We will also define what are the indicators for making slam contracts.

## **Rusty Bridge Part II**

**Thurs., August 8-August 29**

**10am-Noon**

This course includes weak two bids, 2 club openings and responses, preemptive bids, defining what is and is not a forcing bid, and bidding in the balancing seat. There will be lots of practice hands.

## **Cue Bidding**

**Thurs., August 8-August 29**

**1-3pm**

This 4-week course will cover the many ways in which we can use Cue bidding to help us better describe our hand: Limit Raise Cue bids, Overcall Cue bids, Western Cue bids, Cue bids showing controls, and time permitting, we will try to cover “Pick the Suit” Cue bids and Splinter bids.

## **The Club Series**

**Tues., Sept. 3-Oct. 29**

**10am-Noon**

This course is the official ACBL beginner’s bridge course on the basics of bidding and play and is also useful for rusty players to update their game. It’s an eight to ten-week course that includes hand evaluation, opening 1NT, opening bids, and responses, rebids by opener and responder, overcalls, takeout doubles and responses, and basic play concepts. There will be lots of practice hands.

## **2/1 Two Over One**

**Tues., Sept. 3-Oct. 29**

**1-3pm**

This course is a popular variation of the Standard American bidding system This system helps the players to get to the best game contract or explore Slam possibilities at a lower level. I also introduce the response of 1NT as a forcing bidding to improve the partscore contracts. There will be lots of practice hands.

## **Rusty Bridge Part I**

**Tues., Nov. 5-Dec. 10**

**10am-Noon**

**This course** is specially designed for those who want to update their bidding skills, improve their communication with their partners, and/or revive their “college days” playing skills. It begins with a thorough basic bidding review, followed by an introduction to preemptive and slam bidding, the Stayman convention, leads against NT vs. Suit Contracts, bidding in the “balancing seat”, and the distinction between forcing and non-forcing bids. Each session will consist of 1/2 hour lecture and 1 1/2 hours of supervised play with pre-dealt hands that illustrate the subject of the day. A workbook is available from the instructor at a cost of \$15.

## **Conventions**

**Tues., Nov. 5-Dec.10**

**1-3pm**

This course covers a selection of bidding conventions including Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Michaels Cue- Bid, Unusual NT bids, Negative Doubles, New Minor Forcing, Fourth Suit Forcing, 1NT Forcing, plus others. Balancing, third and fourth seat bidding, and other confusing issues, like “reverse” bids, can also be addressed.

## At the Lafayette Community Center: [\\_925.284.2232](tel:925.284.2232) (500 St. Mary's Road)

### **Cue Bidding**

**Wed., July 10-July 31**

**1-3pm**

This 4-week course will cover the many ways in which we can use Cue bidding to help us better describe our hand: Limit Raise Cue bids, Overcall Cue bids, Western Cue bids, Cue bids showing Controls, and time permitting, we will try to cover "Pick the Suit" Cue bids and Splinter bids.

### **Slam Bidding**

**Wed., August 7-August 24**

**1-3pm**

This 4-week course covers the many ways to investigate slam contracts using special conventions such as quantitative bidding, Roman Keycard Blackwood/Gerber, Cue bidding controls, Jacoby 2NT, and Splinter bids. We will also define what are the indicators for making slam contracts.

### **Rusty Bridge Part I**

**Thurs., Sept. 5-October 24**

**10am-Noon**

**This course** is specially designed for those who want to update their bidding skills, improve their communication with their partners, and/or revive their "college days" playing skills. It begins with a thorough basic bidding review, followed by an introduction to preemptive and slam bidding, the Stayman convention, leads against NT vs. Suit Contracts, bidding in the "balancing seat", and the distinction between forcing and non-forcing bids. Each session will consist of 1/2 hour lecture and 1 1/2 hours of supervised play with pre-dealt hands that illustrate the subject of the day. A workbook is available from the instructor at a cost of \$15.

### **The Diamond Series**

**Thurs., Sept. 5-October 24**

**1-3pm**

This course is designed to provide reinforcement of one's bridge skills. Each week 8 pre-dealt hands are played while Carol is available for advice on bidding, declarer's plan, or defensive strategy. Time permitting, there will also be randomly dealt hands for further exploration and fun. All hands will be discussed.

### **Rusty Bridge Part II**

**Thurs, October 31-Dec. 19**

**10am-Noon**

This course includes weak two bids, 2 club openings and responses, preemptive bids, defining what is and is not a forcing bid, and bidding in the balancing seat. There will be lots of practice hands.

### **Diamond Supervised**

**Thurs, October 31-Dec. 19**

**1-3pm**

This course is designed to provide reinforcement of one's bridge skills. Each week 8 pre-dealt hands are played while Carol is available for advice on bidding, declarer's plan, or defensive strategy. Time permitting, there will also be randomly dealt hands for further exploration and fun. All hands will be discussed.

If there are any questions, please call the community centers for more information.

If you need more info, please don't hesitate to visit Carol's website or call her.

<https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com> or 925.933.3535.

All year-round there is **Drop-In Bridge** which runs every **Wednesday from 10am-Noon** at the **Lafayette Community Center**. It's a social bridge game to meet new people, practice what you have 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 playing hands.

# 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. <https://www.unit499.com/>

## Overtricks by the Bay 193 Griffith Lane Brentwood

Overtricks is thriving at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center. Table fees have been reduced to \$4, and there is a minilesson before every game. Mark Marty ([thatsafire@gmail.com](mailto:thatsafire@gmail.com)) or 925-487-7832)

## Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge Blackhawk Country Club



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.

Lilah Newton  
925-648-3154  
[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)

Sharon Tarpinian  
925-736-2461  
[enchantment-s@comcast.net](mailto:enchantment-s@comcast.net)



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

[ccbridgecenter@gmail.com](mailto:ccbridgecenter@gmail.com) •

[unit499.com/contra-costa-bridge-center](http://unit499.com/contra-costa-bridge-center)

## July News

CCBC continues its efforts in 2024 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players.

CCBC **will not** have a game on Thursday, **July 4**

Weeks of – **July 8 and 22**- NAP qualifying games – Extra MPs and 50% **red** points, extra \$. On **Monday and Wednesday only**. The MP limit for the Thursday game does not work for NAP. The strats for these games are A – unlimited, B under 2500, C under 500/non LM.

Put on your calendar the week of August 19 for the next STaC games. All of our games will be STaC games that week.

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

# ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

Special games at Rossmoor in July:

July 8, 9 and 13 - NAP Qualifier Games

July 20 - IMP Pairs

July 23, 24 and 27 - NAP Qualifier Games

Reminder: Rossmoor has a strong **Zero Tolerance** policy in accordance with ACBL laws. Please ask for a Membership Directory at our games and read pages 12-15 for the full policy. We have players from beginners to seasoned and kindness and consideration are expected of all players.



Kit Miller

## Danville Duplicate Bridge Club

Veteran's Hall  
Hartz Ave, Danville

We're back to the tables for our 2499er game starting at 9:30 on Fridays. Our June & July schedules are below.

### June

**22 - 0-2499er**

**29 - Father's Day Weekend Pop-Up Game: 50% Red/50% Black, extra \$1 collected**

### July

**5 - To Be Determined**

**12 - 0-2499er**

**19 - North American Pairs Club Qualifier, extra \$1 collected**

**26 - 0-2499er Club Championship**

Michael Gosnell

Diablo Bridge  
Diablo Country Club  
1 Country Club Drive  
Diablo

The Diablo Bridge game has returned to Diablo Country Club. Everyone enjoyed the new atmosphere and delicious lunch at the June game.

The game is held on the third Tuesday of each month. It begins at 9:30 and runs until about 2:30. Lunch is included.

The game is open to all, but reservations are required.

Mary Krouse  
(925) 984-3846  
diablokr@gmail.com

# Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

We use the ACBL textbooks to teach bridge from beginning to intermediate and advanced. All Series are nine weeks long and meet once per week for two hours. The Cost is \$200 which includes the Textbook. Any student wishing to repeat a series can do so for \$100. Attending single sessions for a specific chapter is \$20 per session cost.

The third series on **Defense** began on Monday June 17. 9:30-11:30am and will continue on Mondays through August 19. After a short break we will once again teach the first series, **Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, meeting from September 9 – November 11.

Please sign up in advance for any classes with Winnie by phone or email or text (see contact information at the end).

On Mondays from 1pm - 3pm we are presenting **Single Topic Seminars**.

These seminar sessions often require some sort of special bid other than a real suit in competition. It is to your benefit to understand the requirements and also what is given up. These sessions are \$20 per person. As usual we use our large screen monitor (75 inch) to show examples. We work through the subject matter and then segue into example hands for you get to actually hold cards in your hand. These hands are specifically designed to support the lesson. With most of our seminars we actually have a library of subjects with professionally diagnosed descriptions. Most often 18 different hands with written explanations. We are able to send to any class attendee who wishes via an attachment.

**List of special topics and expected dates** (slight changes in scheduled presentation may be made at the request of our students). Reservations are recommended.

July 1- Jacoby Transfer

July 8- No Session

July 15- Using Jacoby transfer convention to relay to a minor.

July 22- Jacoby 2NT

July 29- Takeout Doubles- expectations and how does partner respond.

Aug 5- Strong 2C opener with several options for partner's conventional responses.

Aug 12- Limit Raises - both majors and minors

Aug 19- Leads and signals

Aug 26- No Session

Sept 2- Labor Day weekend No Session

Sept 9- 2 suited overcalls; Michaels and Unusual 2 Notrump

Sept 16- Blackwood slam convention; regular and how to respond when having a void

Sept 23- Keycard slam convention

Sept 30- Negative Doubles  
Oct 7- New minor force  
Oct 14- Fourth suit forcing  
Oct 21- Cue bidding at the two level  
Oct 28- Cue bidding at the three level and 4 level  
Nov 4/11- 2/1 game force convention- (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 sessions- \$40 for the two sessions)  
Nov 11- 2/1 game force convention- (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 sessions- \$40 for the two sessions)  
Nov 18- No Session  
Nov 25- 3 level responder bids after your partner opens 1NT. i.e. 1NT-P-3C,3D,3H,3S?

There will be no further afternoon seminar sessions until March 3 as Winnie and I are hosting an ACBL Sectional at Sea aboard the Coral Princess departing January 25 out of San Francisco through the Panama Canal (16 days with 9 sea days) and then returning to Los Angeles (16 days) also through the Panama Canal with different ports of call each direction (only 1 duplicate). This is an excellent way to earn silver points. See attached 2024 Panama Canal Cruise Flyer for details.

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.

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; 14-18+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 699** 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.

Due to the interest in team games of our Swiss Team Game in February, we plan to continue offering Swiss Team Games on the third Saturday of each month:

#### **Swiss Teams 10am – 1:15pm**

**July 20**

**August 17**

**September 21**

**October 19**

**November 16**

**December 21**

These will be Strati- Flighted whenever possible. If you wish to play please organize a team of 4 players and register with Winnie ASAP. If you wish to play but do not have a complete team please let Winnie know and hopefully she can cobble together a team. Game time 10 AM so please come earlier. Table Fee: \$10/person.

**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 Pair Games have hand records available and posted on the results page at [www.https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973](https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973).)

November 17-24 we are having our Lamorinda Bridge Week getaway in Nuevo Vallarta. We have multiple 8000+ sq ft condos reserved with 4 master suites in each unit. The private elevator opens into the condo. Daily morning Bridge games are held on the rooftop overlooking the Bay of Banderas. Afternoons are open to pursue whatever other interests you have. There are 3 golf courses on property- one is the home of the PGA Mexico open which attracts players of John Rahm's caliber. The short par 3 course is lighted for night time play. We have a limited number of complimentary rounds of golf, but, subsequent rounds are billed at \$35. Normal green fees are about \$300/. There are 30+ restaurants on property, and the units have full kitchens if anyone wants to prepare their own meals.

There are numerous ocean-front pools and relaxing sandy beach areas, walking paths, Spa facilities and shopping. See attached 2024 November Flyer for details.

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**