

## President's Message



There are 'new' players every time I walk into a game. I try and say 'Hi' and welcome them. It is fun listening to their stories about how they got started.

Wow, the game is growing. The table counts are increasing. That is good. Everyone recognizes that if the game is to continue new players are needed.

The message here is not only about new players joining us in the various club games, but also about the enthusiasm and energy that new players can bring to the Unit's Board of Directors. In conversations with players who have been around for many, many years, I often hear 'Yeah, I was on the board and I did ...'. As you and your friends progress with Bridge, consider contributing to the bridge community by being on the Board of Directors.

Check in with me, I can give you some ideas about time commitments and the opportunities that are available.

**Good for Nothing** award recipients:

Bruce Johnsonbaugh    Judy Keilin    Lisa Assoni    Mark Humphrey  
Mr Multipoo

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.

- Annual Unit 499 Membership meeting; March 3, 2024 in Rossmoor's Oak Room, 12 noon. Light lunch, \$5 for Open and 499er players. 99ers are Free.
- Tunnel Tournament Saturday, April 27, 2024. At the Oakland Bridge Club, lunch, 2 sessions of 18 boards. Must register with Marian Renvall.
- Vance Seminar. April 13, 2024. Topic 'Hand Evaluation.' A flyer will be available at most games this February.
- Diablo Sectional: Nov. 9 & 10

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

Sam Earnhardt

# ...from the Editor

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The next event is our Annual Meeting and Unit Game at Rossmoor on March 3. Be there at noon for lunch before the game. I hope to see lots of you there. Also, see the flyer in this issue for info on the upcoming Tunnel Tourney.

Thanks to Lisa and Kit for providing us with names of our Unit and Rossmoor Board members. These folks give their time to make our bridge experience better. Thanks to all of you!

Judy Keilin  
Editor



## Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Submit articles to [Jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto:Jkeilin@pacbell.net)

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**Deadline for April is March 19**



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 MASTERS (20)*

David Minor

Nancy Shibata

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

Jackie Thomas

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

Bob Spivock

Robert Ward

### *NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER (2500)*

Sheryl Nagy

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Quy Eskildsen

Nancy Hines

Joan Karr

James Stedman

Madelaine Georgette

Let's welcome these folks when you meet them at the tables.



**Tenth Annual Pairs Invitational**  
**Tunnel Tourney**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**

DIABLO VALLEY UNIT 499 (<http://www.diablovalleybridge.com>)

VS.

EAST BAY UNIT 502 (<http://www.eastbayunit-502.com>)

**10:00 AM & TBA – Two Session (18 Boards per session) Event**

**LOCATION: East Bay Bridge Center 9520 Mountain Blvd., Oakland CA**

Game Director: Greg Vance

Open (0-500/500-2500/2500+)                      299er (0-50/50-100/100-300)

PAIRS MUST PLAY BOTH 18 BOARD SESSIONS

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

**TABLE FEES: \$20.00 for bridge and lunch! Soft drinks: \$1.00**

To register for Unit 499, email [Renvallm@gmail.com](mailto:Renvallm@gmail.com) by April 1, 2024

To register for Unit 502, email [grantvance1@gmail.com](mailto:grantvance1@gmail.com) by April 1, 2024

Provide names, individual MP's and ACBL numbers of both partners

Submit your sandwich selection: Turkey, Veggie, or Italian Sub

If you require a N/S, request it with your reservation

Pairs must be from the same unit and must be members of either Unit 499 or Unit  
502

QUESTIONS? Contact your Unit Tunnel Tourney Chair.  
**Marian Renvall** – Unit 499                      Grant Vance – Unit 502

# ALL ON BOARD

## Get to know who's on Board

The Unit 499 Board of Directors is a dedicated group of folks who only have your best interest in their hands. We're an open book, literally, so all can see finances, minutes and more at our great website -Diablovalleybridge.com

***Sam Earnhardt***, our President, is a wonderful support for our club. Sam digs in order to keep us up to date, and never leaves a stone unturned.

Sam was a math and computer science teacher, and went on to work at Pacific Bell. He began playing this brain game in college, and continues to be our dedicated President... GO SAM!

***Jackie Zayac***, District Representative for D21 membership. A woman who gets around— Wow Jackie- You're amazing! She's had multiple bridge positions and has been on the board since 2013 serving as President of the Western Conference Board. She's also had many volunteer positions and served as the Prize Chair for 2016-Reno NABC. She currently is the Director of the ACBL Board of Directors. Jackie says she loves Bridge and is very happy to serve on the Board, and very happy to serve others.

***Mike Kruley***- Vice-President is such a helpful guy. Mike is another life-line for our Unit. He delivers necessary info to help us stay on track. Mike played bridge in college. He worked at the US Department of Health & Human services. He loves being a Board member because "I can be involved in bringing this amazing game to more players helping to propel bridge to all".

***Marian Renvall***, our Secretary, is a long-time bridge player, who brightens up our board. She graduated from University of California, San Diego. For five years Marian has served as hospitality chair. We have been blessed to have her as our food coordinator. She's been a terrific host and Board member. She prefers being called Cinnamon. That's been her nickname for over fifty years.

***Wayne Rechnitz***- Membership chair/New player development. He is a real asset to our Board. He started playing bridge when he was eight years old. He quickly realized if he wanted to stay up late, he played bridge with dad. He loves to share his knowledge of the game, favoring new players. Wayne is semi-retired for being a Managing Partner in a strategic consulting firm. He has a mechanical engineering degree from University of California, Berkeley, and a M.B.A. from Stanford.



**Bruce Johnsonbaugh**- Youth Group-Mentoring. Bruce practiced law for fifty years. He also served four years in the Army JAG Corps based in the East Coast. Bruce has five grandchildren and recently became a Great-Grandpa. We love Bruce.

**Anne Hollingsworth**—Unit Game Scheduling. She's another go-getter and it's benefited us greatly. She also loves to help our Unit. Anne has been our past President, Vice President, and Treasurer. She's happy to be a volunteer for our Unit. She is currently the District 21 President and serves on various D21 Committees. And, there's more. Anne was also a recipient of the Goodwill Award.

**Sheila Wong**- Sheila is a real asset to our Unit. Sheila recently joined our Board. She just jumped right in and helps wherever needed. She's a former anesthesiologist, loves playing in-person and playing on-line. She's excited about wanting to help wherever needed.

**Chuck Silva**---Chuck is our Treasurer, and keeps a vigilante watch over our Unit. He grew up in the Central Valley in a family that played cards extensively. "I was told that the best card game to learn was bridge, although no one in my family played it. I never forgot that." While attending St. Mary's College, I spent many hours playing Pedro (which is a derivative of Whist, the same as Bridge) because we had no TV, video games or the Internet in those ancient times.

This past January, Chuck retired from his software engineer job. He also had his own consulting firm specializing in Agriculture Business Systems.

**Kathrine Loh**--New Player Ambassador. She's a retired database administrator from the Library of Congress and moved from Washington D.C. to Rossmore. Kathrine is a certified ACBL Bridge Instructor and Director. She enjoys seeing enthusiastic students learning to play bridge and understanding the concepts. She states that bridge provides the kind of mental talent, acuity, and discipline that is required to succeed in life.

**Lisa Assoni**-. I'm a retired teacher, and producer of the cable-casted television show, "The ShortCut Cook". Food is my passion, and bridge, second. Years ago, I stumbled onto this brain game while visiting the shopping center in Pleasant Hill. I strolled around and found the Bridge Center. I took a peek inside, Ron was there, and that's pretty much how I got started. I'm happy to be a Board member, and appreciate all our gang.

Lisa Assoni  
The ShortCut Cook ®

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

March, 2024

North

S A1076

H AQ1097

D 86

C Q6

West

S 432

H 62

D 10975

C K1054

East

S 9

H K843

D KJ4

C AJ983



South

S KQJ85

H J5

D AQ32

C 72

1H 2C 2S P

4S P P P

Not only does this deal demonstrate a deceptive declarer play it also shows the importance of giving your partner the count of the number of cards you have in a key suit.

We arrived in 4S which looks like a fairly good contract. From my view East should have almost all of the high cards out there and when he won the Ace of clubs it looks like the King is in the West hand then East most likely has the red suit kings so I should lose 2 clubs and a heart.

The opening lead was the 4C to East's Ace and he returned the 9 spades, note here, all my spades are now high. I won the spade in dummy and decided to make it look like I was going to cross-ruff the entire hand so I played a diamond to my Queen and cashed the Ace of diamonds and trumped a diamond in the dummy and then played the Ace of hearts and led a little heart to my J which held while West contributed the 2 hearts under my Ace so East thought his partner held the J hearts along with the 6 and the 2.

I then trumped my last diamond in dummy and ended up losing a club in the end. I made 5 for 94% while making 4 was 54%.

West should have played the 6 hearts first, so his partner could tell he held an even number of hearts. This is very important to discuss with your partner so that you are both on the same page. A 40% difference on a board adds up.

By the way, would you have gone up with the K hearts?

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

## CLASSES WITH CAROL

### Current and Spring

At the Orinda Community Center: 925 254-2445

**Bridge conventions** will be offered from 10am-noon starting March 5-April 30. This course will offer the most popular conventions with hands to play that demonstrate their usefulness.

**Rusty Bridge-part II** starts at 1pm-3pm from March 5 to April 30. This class was developed by Carol 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. **Weak Two bids, 2 club opening and responses, preemptive bids**, defining what is and is not a **Forcing bid** and bidding in the **Balancing seat** will be discussed and practiced with hands to play.

At the Lafayette Community Center: 925 284-2232

**The Heart course (Defense) Part I** starts at 10am to noon from March 14-May 9.

This course covers, Opening Leads against NT versus Suit Contracts, Second and Third hand plays, and Defensive Signals.

**Rusty Bridge** Part I is being offered from 10-noon. This class was developed by Carol to give the students the chance to thoroughly review bidding while putting to practice what they have learned with lots of hands to play. We start with a complete review of good basic solid bidding.

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 she 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.



## Debbie's Classes

Bridge for Beginners

3/21/24 - 5/09/24 (8 Sessions)

Thursday Mornings 10am-12pm

Civic Park Community Center Social Hall

\$135

Defense

4/15/24 - 6/03/24 (8 Sessions)

Monday Mornings 10am-12pm

Creekside Commons, Lafayette

\$135

Continuing Conventions

4/15/24 - 6/03/24 (8 Sessions)

Monday Afternoons 1pm - 3pm

Creekside Commons, Lafayette

\$135

Deb Rechnitz

(925) 360-1330

[drechnitz@comcast.net](mailto:drechnitz@comcast.net)



# 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 is thriving at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center. Table fees have been reduced to \$4, and there is a mini-lesson before every game.

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.

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)



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## March News

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

Week of **March 11** – Club championships– lots of extra MPs, no extra charge

Week of **March 25** – Grass Roots FUNd games, extras MPs, extra \$1

Saturday, **March 30** - Unit game, ProAm, extra MPs, extra food, no extra charge  
(advanced registration required)

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

## DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall  
Hartz Ave, Danville



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



The Board approved that the club will pay the extra dollar for special games, including STaC games, for the rest of 2024 for all players.

A St. Patrick's Day game will be held on Monday, March 18, which will be a free game for all players.

Effective March 4 the A and B sections will switch sides of the Oak Room for the Monday and Tuesday games. This seating will remain in effect until further notice.

Above is a photo of the 2024 Board. From left: Bertha Messina, Kit Miller, Lorna John, Dria John, Liz Johnston and Bob LaPointe. Anne Bussey is missing.

Kit Miller

# Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

We are initiating a 9-week course focusing on **Play of the Hand**. (ACBL sanctioned text). Lamorinda has the textbooks and they are included in the tuition fee of \$200 for the course.

The sessions will be weekly on Mondays from 9:30-11:30am commencing March 11, and ending on May 6, 2024. (LBC Students may repeat a class for \$100 per course.)

Please sign up in advance for this class 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.

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

Beginning in March:

March 4 Two Over One Convention, Part Two (Part One was held on February 26.)

March 11 Review of Structure for Opening Bids, Responses and Rebids, Standard American

March 18 Competing in the Balancing Seat

March 25 Competing over the opponent's INT opening bid, both in the direct seat and the balancing seat.

April 1 Michaels Cue Bids and the Unusual 2NT

April 8 New Minor Force (NMF)

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; 14-18+ 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.

If there is sufficient interest, we will offer an additional limited game:

- Wednesdays: 3-5:30pm: Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 699** 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.

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

#### **March 16: Swiss Teams**

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).)

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**