

President's Message



A new and unique event was hosted by Unit 499. It was a smashing success.

Unit 499 offered a unique duplicate game for beginner players on Friday September 13. Two sections, 0-5 and 6-99 were offered to the forty-seven players. As Director, Wayne Rechnitz was very innovative with leading the new players through this game. Six volunteers supported the new players with the use of the boards, bidding boxes, clock, movement, and also added some advice on bidding and play. Maddy Klein and Regina Hartwig were raffled off as mentors for a TBD game. Other raffle prizes included two bridge books and a cookbook by Lisa Assoni. Excellent refreshments were provided by Sheila Wong. It was a real team effort. Five new players signed up for an ACBL free membership (120 day free membership).

On a side note, the new Unit 499 website provided very effective pre-registration.

Overall, the comments were positive. A desire for more beginner games was expressed.

New Players: For more information on games check out the website at unit499.com. If you are interested in a new membership, contact the Membership Director, Wayne Rechnitz .

Good for Nothing Awards.

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 that does nothing but for someone that does tasks without expectation of award or recognition.

Future events.

- 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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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

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October 2024

Deadline for November is October 18



Mary Krouse, Publisher

...from the Editor

FROM THE EDITOR

Be sure to read Kathrine Loh's article on the benefits of playing bridge. What better way to prolong your life than a good bridge game!

Glad to see that the beginners game was a success. These beginners are the future of bridge, so talk it up among your friends, and maybe the next game will be twice as big.

I hope you're all enjoying the larger format of eDeclarer. All comments and suggestions are welcome. We aim to please.

See you at the tables!

Judy Keilin

Editor



To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at
jkeilin@gmail.com

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)

Clayton Kaneko
Janet O'Leary
Kazuo Sugie
Charles Wolff

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Mary Bell
Lynn Irely

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

Bill Dorband
Dave Tong

NEW NABC MASTER (300)

Anne Bergera

NEW MEMBERS

Jawad Abidi
Sheng Doug
Sharon Gonsalves
Leslie Guaragna
Janet Kaye
Steven Lazare
Patricia O'Leary
Steve Chiles
Edith Glynn
Peter Malkovich
Bin Su
Kathy Tuttle

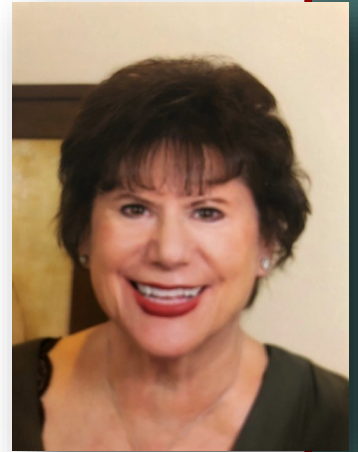
Please welcome these players when you meet them online or at the tables.

SMILE

Words are spoken, some with dire consequences. Have you ever said something that you wish you hadn't? You can't take it back, and the damage is done. So how does it relate to bridge?

Even expressions at the table can be very upsetting. Discuss the hand with partner ---after the opponents leave the table.

Words spoken can cause damage to someone's well-being. Kindness feels good and easy to digest.



It's upsetting to hear the opponents say after the hand is played "You should have played that Q of diamonds, you would have made the contract." Glaring when someone is taking a while to bid is also unkind.

Please share a smile, conveying "Welcome to our table", and try to be patient. Patience is a gift, and waiting is something we don't relish. Did you ever hear this expression "When you give, you receive"? That smile, a verbal welcome, even makes the deliverer, feel good.

Lots of smiling faces attended the game Debbie and Wayne hosted for beginners, hoping to draw folks to join the ACBL, and come play at our clubs. About sixty people attended. A small fee was charged, but if you joined the ACBL, the fee was waived. More smiles were displayed when their eyes feasted on a homemade lunch- made by Sheila Wong. This fabulous cook made several dishes designed by her. Sixty folks got a real-deal and enjoyed a grand day.. What more can we ask for - bridge, food, fun (with lots of YUM)? Of course being Italian, food is always part of making a gathering wonderful.

Unit 499 has a dedicated team to help promote bridge. Check us out! How about asking your friends to join? We're never too old to learn, play and enjoy!

SO SMILE. YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA. IF YOU REMEMBER THAT, YOU'RE AT LEAST MIDDLE-AGED. (yeah right!)

Ciao Bella

Lisa Assoni



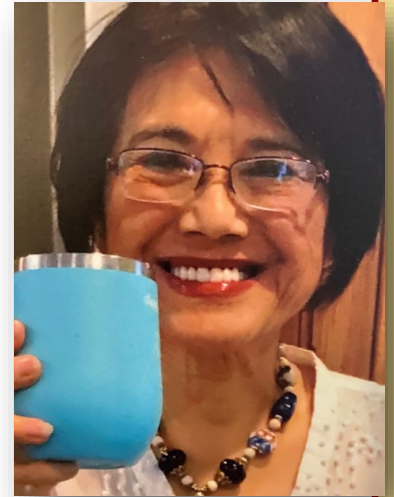
BEGINNER GAME



REGISTRATION FOR BEGINNER GAME

WHAT AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US SENIORS

On my recent bridge cruise on Queen Elizabeth, I met a woman who looks like she is about seventy - very beautiful and elegant. She came to my bridge class, and she played in my duplicate bridge game. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to chat with her. I was truly amazed when she said a few years ago she had a very serious stroke, and she had to relearn her speech and walking. She proceeded to tell me that she is eighty-years-old, and because of her age and her complete recovery, the Canadian Medical institute is studying her progress by asking her to learn a new language.. Guess what? She chose bridge as her new language. Does this mean that research is trying to prove that learning a new language can improve one's memory at any age? And do researchers believe that seniors are able to learn and improve their memory by learning a new language? Is that why they want to study her ability to learn after a severe stroke?



What an inspiration to all of us seniors, to be able to learn a new language at this late age, or for that matter, to be able to learn and retain what you learned is remarkable. She has proven that she has the ability to learn and retain new information.

Now you may wonder why duplicate bridge is considered a language. In duplicate bridge there are two parts: one is the bidding (which is the communication language of bridge) and the other is play of the hands. So duplicate bridge has a common communication language. This language is not a private language just between you and your partner. It is the common language at the table. Professionals and players like me use very sophisticated language to communicate and everyone at the table can ask what we mean, so it is not a secret language or anything like that. Good partnerships communicate very precisely.

Duplicate bridge is a very competitive game, with a unique language of its own. There are very large national and international bridge organizations all over the world where you can play bridge and communicate in the language of bridge. So, bridge also has a very large social component. I hear people complain that duplicate bridge is too serious and players are unfriendly, all of which is true while we are at the table playing duplicate, but when the game is over there is a lot of socialization and interaction and discussions about how certain hands should be bid and played.

I like to encourage anyone who is interested or curious about bridge or in improving their memory or to prevent further cognitive decline to give bridge a try. It has proven to be effective in improving your memory.

You can blame me when someone complains about your being addicted to duplicate bridge.

Kathrine Loh

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

October, 2024

North

S A32

H K653

D KJ

C K985



West

S 954

H 8

D 76542

C Q1043

East

S 876

H QJ1092

D 983

C J2

South

S KQJ10

H A74

D AQ10

C A76

2N P 6N P

P P

This is how the auction went at most tables and the opening lead was the 3 clubs.

When dummy comes down, and you count your winners, you can only get to 11 and the only place for a 12th trick is for a 3-3 split in either hearts or clubs which is a 34% chance. With the opening lead it looks like clubs are not going to split 3-3 and my partner Mike Bandler recognized that our club spots were so good that he won the J clubs with the Ace and he decided to set up the 12th trick by leading the club 6 toward the dummy and when West inserted the 10 he won that and forced out the Q setting up dummy's 9 for that 12th trick and getting a top board. This is an important card combination to remember.

Note here, when the bidding goes like it did, it is very important to make a safe lead that does not require you to find an honor in your partners hand. As it turned out, our table was the only one where a club was led.

Think about how you would have played this hand without a club lead and let me know.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

Bridge Classes with Carol



At the Orinda Community Center: 925.254.2445 (26 Orinda Way)

RUSTY BRIDGE Part I **Tuesdays, November 5-** **December 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 the Stayman convention and leads against NT vs. Suit Contracts. Most likely Preemptive and Slam bidding, bidding in the “balancing seat”, and knowing the distinction between forcing and non-forcing bids will be covered in **Rusty Bridge II**. Each session will consist of ½ hour lecture and 1 ½ 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 **Tuesdays, November 5-December 10** **1pm-3pm**

This course will cover my favorite 4 or 5 conventions including: Stayman and Jacoby Transfers, Negative doubles, Micheals Cue bid coupled with Unusual NT, DONT **or** New Minor Forcing coupled with 4th Suit Forcing. After each lecture on one convention, there will be at least 4 hands to play that demonstrate the subject of the day. No textbook is required.

THE DIAMOND SERIES/PLAY OF THE HAND **Tuesdays, January 14-** **March 18** **10 am-noon**

The Diamond course is the ACBL intermediate 10-week course which focuses on “Play of the Hand”. The main objective is to develop a “Plan by Declarer” including the counting of winners or losers, developing tricks, finessing, eliminating losers, managing the trump suit, considering entries, and avoiding the “dangerous” opponent. Each class will start with an overview lecture, followed by exercises and then play and analysis of four pre-dealt hands. Audrey Grants textbook Play of the Hand is available online.

♣ BEGINNER BRIDGE/ THE CLUB SERIES **Tuesdays, January 14-** **March 18** **1-3pm**

The Club Series 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 respons-

THE DIAMOND SERIES/PLAY OF THE HAND Tuesdays, January 16-
March 20 10am-noon

The Diamond course is the ACBL intermediate course (8 – 10 weeks) which focuses on “Play of the Hand”. The main objective is to develop a “Plan by Declarer” including the counting of winners or losers, developing tricks, finessing, eliminating losers, managing the trump suit, considering entries, and avoiding the “dangerous” opponent. Each class will start with an overview lecture, followed by exercises and then play and analysis of four pre-dealt hands. Audrey Grants textbook Play of the Hand is available online.

THE HEART COURSE/DEFENSE Part I Thursdays, January 16- March
20 1-3pm

This defensive course **Part I** is an eight-week course that concentrates on defensive bidding and play. It encompasses Leads against NT, Leads against Suit contracts, Second-Hand play and Third-Hand play, and Signals. There will be an additional 8 pre-dealt hands every other week to bid and play demonstrating the lessons. The course book is available online.

Part II in April/May will cover Defensive Signals, How to Develop Defensive Tricks, how to interfere with Declarer’s Plan, and Making a Defensive Plan.

THE DIAMOND SUPERVISED PLAY Thursdays, April 10-May
29 10am-noon

This is an 8–week series designed to provide reinforcement of one’s bridge skills learned in the Diamond course/Play of the Hand. 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.

THE HEART SERIES/DEFENSE Part II Thursdays, April 10-May
29 1pm-3pm

Part II covers Defensive Signals, How to Develop Defensive Tricks, How to interfere with Declarer’s Plan, and Making a Defensive Plan. Again, there will be an additional 8 pre-dealt hands every other week to bid and play demonstrating the lessons of the previous weeks lesson. The course book is available online.

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. She is also available for private lessons.

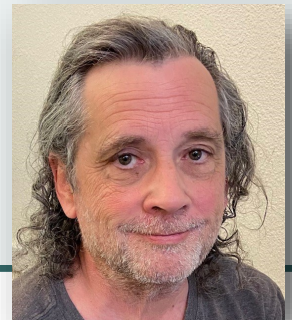
All year-round there is **Drop-In Bridge** which runs every **Wednesday from 10am-noon** at the **Lafayette Community Center**. It's a social bridge game to meet new people, practice what you have learned in a class or just get help whenever you need it while you are playing by asking Carol or Debbie. 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) or 925-487-7832)

Blackhawk Duplicate
Bridge Blackhawk Country Club



Due to renovations to the Blackhawk Country Club dining areas the 1st and 4th Wednesday Ladies' Bridge Group will be playing at Diablo Country Club on October 2, October 23, and November 6. Game time is still the same as always: 9:30. We are inviting our gentlemen friends to join us. We will have our lunch at 12 and then resume our bridge game, finishing up at 2-2:30. If you want to play please contact Lilah Newton, at 925-648-3154, or email lilahnewton@yahoo.com.

Lilah Newton

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

ROSSMOOR NEWS

Special games at Rossmoor in October:

October 7-12 - Club Appreciation Week

October 19 - UNIT Game, 299er & Open with luncheon

October 21-26 - Club Appreciation Week

There will be no games on November 1 and 2 due to the annual bazaar.

Kit Miller



Danville Duplicate Bridge Club

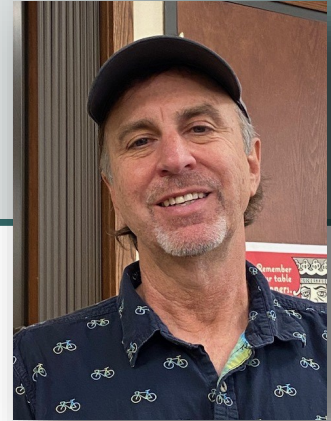
Veteran's Hall
Hartz Ave, Danville

Our 2499er game is held at the Veteran's Hall and starts at 9:30 on Fridays.

The cost is \$9 for Danville residents and \$10 for non-residents.

I hope to see you there.

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.



Contra Costa Bridge Center
ccbridgecenter@gmail.com
unit499.com/contra-costa-bridge-center

October News

CCBC continues its efforts in 2024 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players. We are providing 2 more weeks of special games in October and a special Pro-Am game. Chances to win extra MPs.

Weeks of **Oct 7 and 21** – Club Appreciation Games, extra MPs, no extra cost

Saturday, **Oct. 26** - Unit game, ProAm, extra food. Table fees will be \$9. Sign-ups in advance are required. Please contact Mark Humphrey at markhumphrey@comcast.net.

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)

Our next three series of Bridge Classes will be on Mondays from 9:30 – 11:30am:

Bidding in the 21st Century (September 9 through November 4, 9 weeks)

Play of the Hand (March 3 through April 29, 9 weeks)

Defense (May 5, 12, 19; June 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7, 14, 9 weeks)

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. It is possible to attend a class specifically for review of a specific chapter. If you would like the topic for a specific concept, please request information from Winnie.

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. We use our large screen monitor (75 inch) to show examples. We work through the subject matter and then play sample hands hand that 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 made at

the request of our students). Reservations are recommended.

October 7- New Minor Force
October 14- Fourth Suit Forcing
October 21- Cue Bidding at the two level
October 28- Cue bidding at the three level and 4 level
November 4/11- 2/1 game force convention- (1st of 2 sessions- \$40 for the two sessions)
November 11- 2/1 game force convention- (2nd of 2 sessions- \$40 for the two sessions)
November 18- No Session
November 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 Jerry and Winnie are hosting an ACBL Sectional at Sea aboard the Coral Princess departing January 20, 2025 out of San Francisco through the Panama Canal (16 days with 9 sea days) and then returning to Los Angeles departing February 5 (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 2025 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.

We plan to continue offering Swiss Team Games on the third Saturday of each month:

Swiss Teams 10am – 1:15pm

October 19

November 16

December 21

These games will be Strati- Flighted whenever possible. If you wish to participate please either organize a team of 4 players and register with Winnie ASAP, or if you wish to play but do not have a complete team please let Winnie know and she can suggest several possibilities to forming a team. Game time is at 10am, so please arrive 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

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

Please make your Class and Game Reservations with Winnie

LAMORINDA BRIDGE CLUB SECTIONALS AT SEA

Coral Princess Panama Canal January 20-February 5, 2025 (16 nights)

San Francisco CA to Ft. Lauderdale FL. Ports of Call: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; Fuerte Amador, Panama; Cartagena, Colombia.

LAMORINDA BRIDGE SECTIONAL; Voyage 6503; Group Code TN9

6503 will have 10 games- 9 sea days plus a game while in transit between the Pacific and Atlantic.

Coral Princess Panama Canal February 5-21, 2025 (16 nights)

Ft. Lauderdale FL to San Pedro CA. Ports of Call: Oranjestad, Aruba; Fuerte Amador, Panama; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua; Huatulco, Mexico; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

LAMORINDA BRIDGE SECTIONAL; Voyage 6505; Group Code TPL

6505 will have 9 games- 8 sea days plus the transit between oceans.

Co-sponsored by ACBL and the Lamorinda Bridge Club, Jerry Chamberlain, Director. For general information, please contact Jerry at jerry@wjasper.com; 925-766-5228 or Winnie Jasper at winnie@wjasper.com; 925-683-1908. Please copy all cruise inquiries to Tournament Director, Jerry Chamberlain.

Master Point Awards: These will be non-championship level games awarding silver points at 65% normal sectional values.

TABLE FEES:

Table fees will be paid directly to the Venmo, PayPal or Zelle account of Gerald Chamberlain two weeks prior to sailing. Account information will be forwarded to the registered group participants.

Fees for Voyage 6503 = \$180

Fees for Voyage 6505 = \$162

No refunds if you elect to miss a game.

If enough players wish to play an afternoon session, we will add this and payment will be made onboard.

We have to commit to ensure the cruise ship will guarantee space to play bridge. You can join our group by registering through **MELISSA MESKER** or any other of the Princess Group Coordinators into the group with our **GROUP CODE**.



MELISSA MESKER, Group Reservation Specialist

1-800-901-1172 Ext 21678

mmesker@princesscruises.com



Booking will be directly with Melissa Mesker at Princess Cruises. If you are working through your own travel agent, please ask to have Melissa contacted for the booking. Be certain to refer to the **Group CODE**. **Bridge space may be limited, and only guaranteed for players registered with the group.**

It is easiest for you to book directly with Melissa at the above contact. She will assist you with the pricing and cabin location, extra perks, Wi-Fi, etc. Playing space is limited but it will be in one of the dining rooms. Game time will be 9:30 AM. Your names, contact email, cabin number, etc will be forwarded to me prior to sailing and they will be the only bridge players allowed to play.

We will host a cocktail party one night and also included is a \$25/person shipboard credit.

We recognize that many ACBL members have cruised often and have relationships with the cruise lines as well as a travel agent they have confidence in. We at Lamorinda Bridge Club do not wish to in any way interfere with those relationships. Make your best deal with whomever, but you will have to make certain you are included in the group codes above. That will require that either you or your agent contact Melissa as part of the booking process.

You will not be included in the group/game if you book the cruise elsewhere and then attempt to be included after the fact. Initial booking deposit must be through Melissa Mesker.