

## President's Message



My partner, Mr. Pug, and I often travel to the Brentwood area and play at Overtricks by the Bay - a fun club with a brief lesson by Mark Marty before the game. The lesson is always informative with cogent questions from the players. Mr. Pug and I try to support the Unit's various clubs – valuable for the health of our bridge community.

I recognize the travel distance can be a challenge. About 20-25 minutes from my house – not too different from other travel distances for me - (Rossmoor – 15-20 minutes, Orinda 15-20 minutes, Danville 20 minutes). For all of these, the commute can be significant for some of you. Overtricks is the opposite way of the commute in the morning and with a 9am start time, the trip home is very quick.

If you plan to play at Overtricks, drop Mark ([mark.marty@thatsafire.com](mailto:mark.marty@thatsafire.com)) a note, or just show up. A partner is guaranteed.

Let's support all of our community bridge clubs. Carpool with your partner. As a side note, Mr. Pug and I find the drive time excellent for reinforcing various convention's bids and rebids!

Hope to see you at Overtricks sometime soon.

## **Good for Nothing Awards.**

Anne Hollingsworth

Bruce Johnsonbaugh

Judy Keilin

Lisa Assoni

Mark Humphrey

Mr Mutipoo

Chuck Silva

Lynne 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.**

The Unit's Board of Directors (BoD) has started planning for an active collection of events (sectionals, seminars, and beginner games). Watch for the flyers and announcements.

Sam Earnhardt, PMP

[sam.earnhardt@gmail.com](mailto:sam.earnhardt@gmail.com)

Cell: 925-395-6426

Office: 925-946

Happy  
Holidays!

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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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**Deadline for January is December 18**



Mary Krouse, Publisher

## *...from the Editor*

All hope of publishing a small issue this month in order to get it to you before Thanksgiving were dashed when I received several unexpected contributions. Whenever you get to read it, I hope you'll gain some knowledge and be entertained,

Thanks to Beverly Weiss, who shared how bridge has impacted her life, AND a great poem about doubling. Beverly is new to Northern California, and looking for partners. Get in touch with her. You won't be sorry.

Michael Kruley included some information about a fundraiser where you can earn gold points. Read "Good for Gold".

Congratulations to Anne and Gish! Read about their big win.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Judy Keilin  
Editor



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

Danny Yang

### *NEW CLUB MASTER (20)*

Dave Dou

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

Bee Sturmer

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Ann Baer

Steve Nagy

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



There is a special event coming up the weeks of December 9 and 16. It's called Good for Gold, and it's a fundraiser for hurricane relief. Players have to register, and then can play in any game during those weeks with a minimum of two required (at least one face-to-face). They can win Gold points if they finish high enough nationally.

Check the FAQs below to get all the information, because the general description is not totally complete.

Michael Kruley



A Bridge Event for Disaster Relief  
Experience the Power of Giving

## **Play bridge, play for gold, play to aid disaster relief in North America**

"Gold for Good: A Bridge Event for Disaster Relief" gives players the chance to support hurricane-affected communities in southeastern United States and have the chance to win gold master-points from their usual morning and afternoon session pair games -- whether at a club, or a sectional or regional.

### **Help Where It's Needed Most**

Working in conjunction, the ACBL and the ACBL Charity Foundation will support [World Central Kitchen](#) and [Direct Relief](#). 100% of your \$30 registration fee – one each week you participate – will be donated to the cause. (The ACBL will cover any credit card fees.) Feel even more generous? You will be able to make additional donations. (This is coming soon.)

### **Go for Gold Points in All Morning and Afternoon Session Pair Games**

Play in the morning and afternoon sessions during each of these weeks and be part of a larger event scored like a Side Series at a regional. The top player earns 20 gold points, and the top 25% of each pool ([further explained in the FAQ](#)) will also receive gold points.

There are two separate weeks of Gold for Good, each six days long. That's two chances to win! To qualify, you need to play in at least two sessions – (you can play in as many as six).

Any face-to-face pair game in a morning or afternoon session during the series dates counts, even special games. At least one game must be a face-to-face game. Only one face-to-face play per day will count. Games from Virtual Clubs and the ACBL Clubhouse will be averaged and considered as one result.

### **Event Weeks (Separate Events):**

**Week 1:** December 9-14

**Week 2:** December 16-21

**Let's make a difference with bridge!**

Questions? Contact [goldforgood@acbl.org](mailto:goldforgood@acbl.org), or call 662-253-3181.



# PHOTOS FROM PRO-AM GAME



# Instant Matchpoint Game

On Wednesday afternoon, October 30, clubs across the country participated in the ACB-Wide Instant Matchpoint Game. There were 112 clubs across 24 Districts with 825 tables and 3889 players all playing the same cards at the same time.

What is an instant matchpoint game?

- It's an ACBL-wide event exclusive for face-to-face clubs.
- Players see their scores instantly after each deal.
- Section tops in each direction earn one gold masterpoint (other points are red and black).

Players receive a booklet with analysis by expert players.

**Anne Hollingsworth** and **Irwin Lichtblau** from our Unit 499 took top place overall in this country-wide event with their 73.20% game. WOW!!!

Other big winners were **Maddie Klein** and **Joyce Ellenberg** who took 4th place in District 21.

Congrats to these players from Unit 499.

Anne Hollingsworth

## ACBL-Wide Instant Match Point - Open - 825 Tables

MPs	Rank	Names	Score
20	1	<b>Anne Hollingsworth, Walnut Creek CA; Irwin Lichtblau, Lafayette CA</b>	<b>73.30</b>
15	2	Alden Boreson - Michael Boreson, Kalispell MT	71.96
11.25	3	Brian Bowman, Kingston ON; Michael Bowman, Inverary ON	70.46
10	4	Pat Kent, Charlestown RI; Stuart Treworgy, Cumberland RI	69.00
10	5	Steve Kemic - Jennifer Young, Los Alamos NM	68.81
10	6	Jack Jones, Fort Lauderdale FL; Lee Atkinson, <u>Hollywood FL</u>	68.63
10	7/8	ED PROSSER - LANCE CHAMBERLAIN, Rochester MN	67.96
10	7/8	Shannon Kasperkiewicz, Redmond WA; Kimberly Gilmore, Sammamish WA	67.96
10	9	Jane Schwartz, Brookhaven GA; Carl Johnston, <u>Atlanta GA</u>	67.63
7.5	10	Jay Shahani, Columbia SC; Bernetha Henry, Hopkins SC	67.46

### District 21



MPs	Rank	Names	Score
20	1	<b>Anne Hollingsworth, Walnut Creek CA; Irwin Lichtblau, Lafayette CA</b>	<b>73.30</b>
7.5	2	Mary Bates, San Mateo CA; Sandra <u>Tilch</u> , Foster City CA	61.38
5.63	3	Daniel Harp, Napa CA; P Shoemaker, Fairfield CA	61.15
4.22	4	Maddy Klein, Walnut Creek CA; Joyce Ellenberg, Moraga CA	60.95
3.16	5	Tom Jacobson, Fairfield CA; Patricia Hertz, Sebastopol CA	59.85





# Unit 499 Diablo Valley Fall Sectional

Unit 499 Diablo Valley hosted its Fall Sectional the weekend of November 9-10. It was held at a new venue, Creekside Commons, in Lafayette. It has great space and large windows for natural light - good for playing bridge!

On Saturday, there were games for all levels : 0-99, 0-499, Mid-flight Pairs (up to 2500) and Open Pairs. Sunday offered Bracketed Teams, always a favorite.

Sheila Wong served as our Hospitality Chair and did a fantastic job with nibbles for the mornings (Including Dunkin' Donut holes and Sheila's homemade muffins) and afternoons. Lunch, with a sandwich, chips, cookie, and Sheila's homemade potato salad, was available for purchase. If you haven't had a sandwich from Diablo Foods, they are delicious! Sheila had excellent helpers in Marian Renvall and Dori Dolgin.

I want to give a shout-out to those who came early on Saturday morning to help set up the room for the games - Sam Earnhardt, Wayne Rechnitz, Gish Lichtblau, John O'Brien, Bill Weidinger and Calvin Harper (works for District 21 and brings the tables and supplies). Having volunteers resulted in a quick set-up to be ready for players who started arriving before 9am. They must have heard how good the hospitality is at our tournaments!

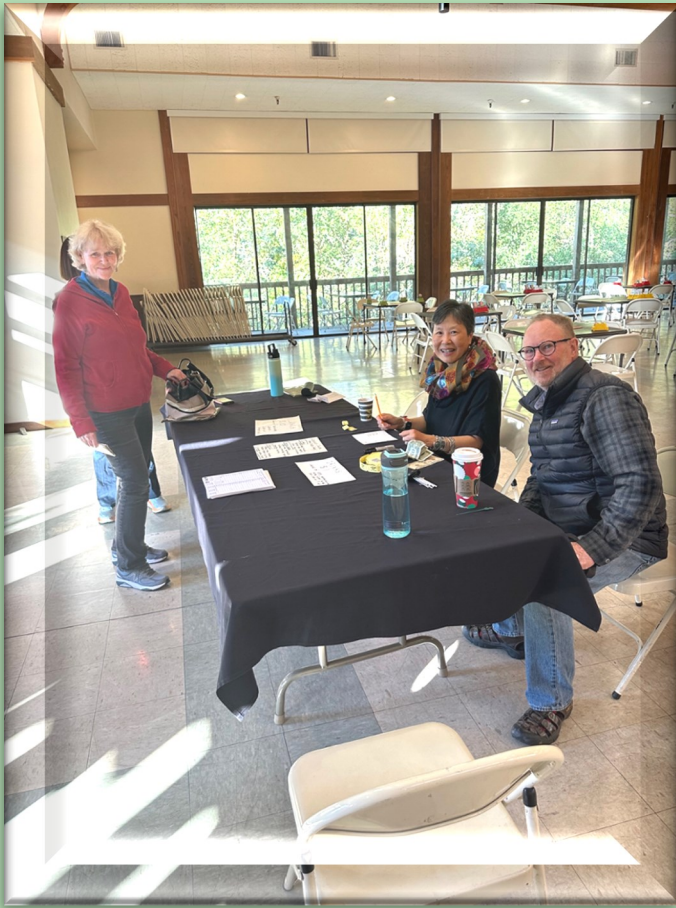
Those who attended had a wonderful day of bridge, but we were disappointed in the participation, the lowest we have had (even right after COVID). When you see a member of the Unit 499 Board, please share how we can encourage more players to come for a Sectional. These tournaments are one of the ways the Unit earns monies for programs sponsored by the Unit, such as contributing to hospitality for our clubs' unit games, helping our clubs with capital expenditures (dealing machines) and offering learning opportunities (special and celebrity speakers).

We hope to see you at a future Unit event!

Anne Hollingsworth

Unit 499 Sectional Chair

Scootcat@pacbell.net



Kathleen Young, Sheila Wong and Sam Earnhardt man the table to sell lunches .



Wayne Rechnitz, John O'Brien, Gish Lichtblau, and Calvin Harper setting up the playing area.

# What Are You Hiding?

It may be the gift-giving time, as we near the season of buying presents. Some hide them under a tree, 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 seemed to warm your heart and give us comfort, all in one cup. Hum, I'm getting thirsty; it must be five o'clock somewhere!



So, what should you be hiding? It's your bridge hand. If you don't cover your cards, and you don't think folks will take a peek, 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. 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 of the game. Even when I groan, make a face, roll my eyes, or take a deep breath, they're all give-always. Poker face is what we need, so you don't reveal what you're hiding.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthful Holiday.

Ciao Bella

Shortcut Cook, Lisa

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

December, 2024

North

S AQJ3

H A

D Q987

C KJ103

West

S 62

H KJ7543

D \_\_\_\_\_

C 98752

East

S 109854

H Q108

D J1032

C 6



South

S K7

H 962

D AK654

C AQ4

1N 3H 4N P

P P P

This deal came up recently in a club game and I was very surprised that not one single declarer found the correct way to play it.

At my table the bidding went as shown and I still don't know what North's 4N was asking and I am assuming South didn't either.



You can see that good things can happen when you interfere in their auction.

I think if 4N asked to bid 6 with a maximum, that South has that but was probably worried about not having any kind of heart stopper. If it asked for aces he should have shown two and if it asked for a suit, he had a very nice diamond suit.

In any case South passed this and I led the 9 of clubs and South won in his hand and played 3 more clubs followed by 4 spades and then cashed 3 diamonds starting with the K and finally cashed the A hearts losing the last trick to my partners J diamonds.

Do you see the correct way to play this? My friend Mike Lawrence says to study the deal and ask yourself what can go wrong. In 4N not much can go wrong since you have 12 top tricks. However, you have an opportunity to take 5 diamond tricks for a total of 14 tricks.

Yes, the diamond suit is crucial to making all the tricks and the clue that it might split 0-4 is in the bidding.

This card combination does not occur very often but when it does you must be prepared for it. It is most likely that East has the length in diamonds, he has shown up with 5 spades, some hearts, and a singleton club leaving room for 4 diamonds. So, simply lead a low diamond to the Q and then a diamond back to your hand, East must split his honors and then back to the dummy and lead another diamond picking up the entire suit. Note, you must lead the diamonds twice towards your A and K for this to work.

By the way, bidding 6N and making 6 gets you 75%. There were a bunch of them, making 7 would have been 100% while 4N making 6 was only worth 25%.

Another example of solving a problem and then giving you bragging rights.

Jerry Weitzner

[jweitzner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jweitzner@sbcglobal.net)

# The Weak-Two Bid

This bid is designed to do multiple things:

1. create a desire to play in the suit bid
2. take up bidding space the opposition could use
3. announce a limited number of high-card points  
start the dialogue between partners.

There are several responses that can be made after its use:

1. responder may introduce his/her own suit (normally non-forcing)
2. ask for more information (Ogust)
3. raise to further cramp opposition either one-level or 2-levels
4. Pass

The nature of the bid changes significantly the value of cards.

1. Queens and Jacks lose their offensive and defensive value as the weak-2 bidders' distribution makes them unlikely to take tricks
2. length in the 2-bidders' suit is a liability
3. high cards in front of the 2-bidders' suit are vulnerable
4. defense gets a head start

Use of this bid should guarantee to partner a desire for it to be led if the opponents get the contract. (consequently it should have 2 or 3 of the top 5 cards (especially when vulnerable).

It should contain a potential A or KQ for entry purposes.

Lee Haze



## MY FRIEND : BRIDGE

My first encounter with bridge was at sixteen. Shortly after seeing Dr. Zhivago twice and falling in love with Omar Sharif, I read a bridge column in the New York Times that quoted him saying, "It is easy to find a beautiful woman, but hard to find a good bridge partner." Fast-forward twenty-five years to 1990 when a friend was going to teach me tennis. However, after fifteen minutes on the court, he put the racket down and kindly said, "maybe it's better if I teach you bridge."

That was it! We took a few lessons and were told to go to any game but the Big Friday night game in Rockland County NY. It was a large competitive game run by Florence and Paul Silver (Joshua Donn's grandparents) where the best players in the area competed. Of course, my bridge partner said, "We are going to the Friday night game!" There were eighteen tables. We moved from table to table either giving gifts or fixes. You could hear some of the players snickering "Fix". One woman got enraged and said we did not belong in the game, but again my partner made us go. And we learned. I made close friendships and eventually met my love, Martin Weiss.

He was a far better player and would get angry with me. In an attempt to manage his temper, he wrote "Behave like a Mensch" at the top of his bridge card, but, alas, it did not work. As time passed, I became a better player but learned that I had to respond in an equal tone and that was the only thing that worked! This resulted in my Pasadena friend, unknowing the history, gifting me a "Bridge Witch" tee shirt.

In 2013 my husband had a minor stroke and could no longer drive. I was working at a small company with younger people who played loud music. It was difficult writing my economic analysis in that environment and one day I said, "Any chance we could change the music or use ear phones?" They said, "Beverly, do you want to work from home?" and that was it! My husband and I moved to California shortly after to be near family. We landed in Pasadena not knowing a soul. We played our first game in Arcadia and became part of a beautiful, warm, welcoming bridge community. My husband wrote the newsletter for a while, I became the persona non grata advocating for bridgemates/sorters but also volunteered for running the Christmas Dinner charity auction. I also began a New Year's Eve pot luck bridge party that celebrated New Year's Eve as it clocked in hourly across the world culminating with New York at 9pm PT.

My dear sweet husband passed away this past May. We met at the bridge table in the early 1990's and it took ten years before we had our first date, which never ended.

My farewell to the Pasadena Bridge community:

“On Friday I start the next chapter - driving to a new home in Northern California. I am sure Marty will be beside me – back-seat driving and holding onto the strap for dear life - as usual. It seems like I can never thank you all enough for making our stop in Pasadena so filled with Joy. “

It's a small world. Some six or seven years earlier, I met Art Mirin while advocating for a disease that both our daughters share. And now I find myself part of the bridge unit where he is president. Thank you to all the Livermore players who wore our advocacy tee shirts to the San Francisco Nationals in hopes of attracting the attention and donations of Bill Gates.

Thank you for welcoming me into your bridge community. I have been here for three months, and I appreciate the smiles at the bridge table. However, it is daunting to send an email to 350 (or 750) people looking for a partner, but who knows?

PS: My sister went to a NYC Bridge Club after her divorce having not played bridge since college. She assured them she knew the game and they found her a partner. He asked: Stay-man? My sister responded, “Sondra Stein”.

My friend: bridge.

Humbly,

Beverly Anne Weiss

Pleasanton

(definitely not a bridge witch)





*My husband's final bridge column:  
Bev and Marty came to Pasadena  
The poor things didn't know a soul  
Where they used to play everyone was meaner  
Than a varmint that's been roused from its hole.*

*They'd just moved in-were barely here a week,  
They hadn't even time to stock their fridge  
When they turned on their computers, so to seek  
The place they'll play their first game of bridge.*

*Arcadia Tuesday evening was the venue  
Nine tables full of folks they'd never met  
They'd no idea of what was on the menu  
But they'd see what kind of evening they would get.*

*They sat north-south at table number two  
And got in trouble almost from the start  
When played they passed the boards like they're supposed to do  
Oh-Oh. That's not allowed by Diane and Art.*

*.....A Shakespearian sonnet consists of a number of lines (usually twelve) in iambic pentameter, followed by a rhyming couplet. I have occasionally departed from iambic pentameter, but here comes the rhyming couplet....*

*With this scrawl our 'columnisting' comes to its end.  
And to you all our deep affection we send.*

*Beverly Weiss*

# The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas

Two guests in our house

Had started to play bridge

With me and my spouse.

"Please tell me" she shouted

"Why didn't you double? "

Twas plain from the start

That we had them in trouble".

"Tis futile, my dear",

Said I, taking no stand, "

To discuss it with you –

Let us play the next hand".

"Remember next time,"

Said she, icing a frown,

"To double a contract

That's sure to go down."

So I picked up my cards

In a downtrodden state,

Then I opened One Spade

And awaited my fate.

The guy sitting South

Was like many I've known

He played and he bid

In a world all his own.

"Two diamonds" he countered

With scarcely a care,

The Ace in his hand

Gave him courage to spare.

My wife she smiled faintly

And tossing her head

Leaned over the table

"I double" she said.

NORTH

S 9876

H 65432

D8765

C ---

WEST

S ---

H QJT9

D KQJT9

C KQJT

DLR E
VUL N/S

VUL N/S
---------

EAST

S AKQJT

H AK87

D ---

C A987

SOUTH

S 5432

H ---

D A432

C 65432

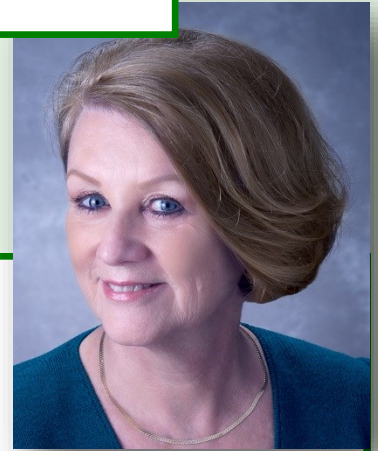
And North for some reason  
I cannot determine  
Bid Two Hearts as though  
He was preaching a sermon.  
I grinned as I doubled,  
Enjoying the fun  
And turned round to South  
To see where he would run.  
But South, undisturbed  
Not at loss for a word  
Came forth with Two Spades –  
Did I hear what I heard?  
The other two passed  
And in sheer disbelief I said  
“Double, my friend  
That’ll bring you to grief”.  
South passed with a nod  
His composure serene;  
My wife with a flourish  
Led out the Heart Queen.  
I sat there and chuckled  
Inside o’er their fix –  
But South very calmly  
Ran off eight straight tricks!

He ruffed the first  
Heart In his hand right away  
And then trumped a Club  
On the very next play.  
He crossruffed the hand  
At a breathtaking pace  
Till I was left holding  
Five Spades to the Ace.  
In anguish my wife cried  
“Your mind’s growing old  
Don’t you see Six NoTrump  
In this hand is ice cold?”  
By doubling this time  
I’d committed a sin.  
It just goes to prove  
That you never can win.

From the files of Jack T. Murphy with his note: “This story was published many years ago by B.J. Becker of New York. I found it in my father’s desk after he died in 1968”. Jack sent it to the then Kibitzer where it may have been reprinted years ago.



# Bridge Classes with Carol



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

**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 responses, rebids by opener and responder, overcalls, takeout doubles and responses, and basic play concepts. Each class includes “hands-on” practice in bidding and play. Audrey Grant’s Bidding in the 21 century is available for purchase online.

**+ THE DIAMOND SUPERVISED PLAY**      **Tuesdays, March 25-May 27**      **10 am-noon**

This is a series of 10-weeks 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.



## **RUSTY BRIDGE PART I**

**Tuesdays, March 25-May 27 1 pm-3 pm**

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 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.

**At the Lafayette Community Center:** 925.284.2232 (500 St. Mary’s Road)

## **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    10 am-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    1 pm-3 pm**

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/>

## Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge Blackhawk Country Club



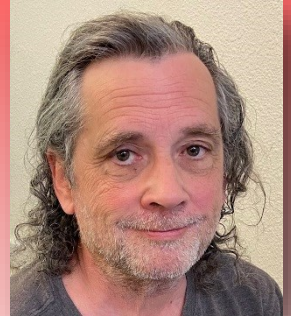
The Ladies' Blackhawk Bridge Group will hold its Christmas party on Wednesday, December 11, at the Blackhawk Falls Clubhouse. We are inviting our gentlemen friends to join us as well as any guests. However, you must make a reservation.

The day begins with muffins/pastries and coffee/tea at 9:30. We will play our game, finishing around 1- 1:15. We will have a deli buffet followed by wonderful Belgian chocolates for dessert. We will have some games and door prizes and, hopefully, an original Christmas poem. Cost for the day is \$45. If you would like to make a reservation, please contact Lilah Newton at 925-963-0452 or [lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com). You can also contact Sharon Tarpinian at 925-200-9758 or [enchantment-s@comcast.net](mailto:enchantment-s@comcast.net).

Directions to the Falls Clubhouse: If you are entering through the Main Gate on Blackhawk Road, go through four STOP signs. At the roundabout go straight until you come to the 2nd STOP sign (Country Club Place.) Turn right and continue a short distance up the hill until you are at the Falls Clubhouse.

If you are coming from the Pleasanton area on Camino Tassajara, turn right into the country club and go until the 3rd STOP sign (Country Club Place.) Turn left and continue for a short distance up the hill until you are at the Falls Clubhouse.

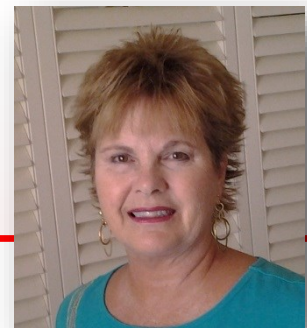
Overtricks by the Bay  
193 Griffith Lane  
Brentwood



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)

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor



### ROSSMOOR NEWS

Monday, December 9, will be the Rossmoor members Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting. This is a **member only** activity. If a non-member is playing that day, they must wait until 12:50 to enter the Oak Room.

Saturday, December 14, will be a Swiss Team game. Please sign up in advance at any game or contact Michael Gosnell, Club Manager, at email: [michaelgosnell@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelgosnell@hotmail.com).

Kit Miller



## Danville Duplicate Bridge Club

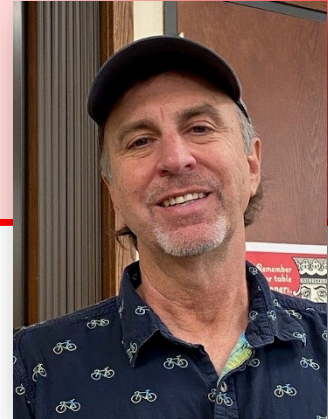
Veteran's Hall  
Hartz Ave, Danville

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.

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



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

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

## December News

CCBC concludes 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 December as well as a special unit game. Chances to win extra MPs.

Week of **December 9** – Club membership games, extra MPs, no extra cost. Must be an ACBL member to win MPs.

### **Saturday, Dec 14. Holiday Party**

The doors at CCBC's club will open at 12:45 - for food and celebration. We will target a 1:30 start for the game. This will be a Unit game, so extra Master Points will be awarded (with no extra table fees). The game will have A, B, and C Strats - so players at all levels have opportunities to earn MP's.

Given the limited space, we can accommodate a maximum of 20 tables. We are already sold out. However, you can contact Mark Humphrey at [markhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:markhumphrey@comcast.net) if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

Week of **December 16** – Stardust Week (1/4 gold points) Extra \$1

**Dec 25 (Wednesday) – No game** – Christmas. Also no game on **January 1** – New Year's Day

CCBC continues its schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda. **CCBC is 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)

**\*\*\*\*\*SCHEDULE CHANGE\*\*\*\*\* Beginning Tuesday, December 2, 2024**

Due to the recent change of our clocks, we have had many requests to change our start time on Tuesdays, so we are altering the Game times on Tuesday until further notice:

## **GAME SCHEDULE:**

### **· Tuesdays:**

**Game:** 2:00-4:40pm, Supervised Play; 16-20+ boards with Master Points awarded; three

questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 699** Game; \$10 table fee

**Optional Potluck Supper:** 5:00-5:45pm, \$5

**Game:** 6-8:45pm **Open** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

**· 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**

**December 21, January 18, No Team event in February, March 15**

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.

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

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

**Defense (May 5, 12, 19; June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7, 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. At-

tending 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 future classes with Winnie by phone or email or text (see contact information at the end).

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.

\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* - Advance Notice

While we are on the cruises in January and February our Tuesday afternoon games and our Friday morning games will still be held as usual. The Tuesday evening Open Games and the February Swiss Team game will not be held.

**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](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**

**See Cruise flyer next page:**



## 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](mailto:jerry@wjasper.com); 925-766-5228 or Winnie Jasper at [winnie@wjasper.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.**