

## President's Message



I sat down with Mr. Goldendoodle and Ms. Bernedoodle (yes, they are related), and immediately discerned a disruptive atmosphere. My partner does not like conflict – benign or otherwise.

There was a scowl and a terse 'your bid'.

As mentioned before in an earlier President's Message, partnerships can be fragile. And partnerships with rough edges can disrupt a fun and sociable atmosphere.

Even an ongoing discussion while sorting the cards and preparing for a bid can interfere with comfortable play and meeting the time requirements. The above pair 'discussed' the bidding with 'why didn't you bid NT, you had stoppers' and 'you should have rebid clubs' and more and more until I had resorted twice and recounted my five points twice !!!

Some pairs gently offer a thought and move on. Most pairs in fact are very brief and polite in their quick reviews. For me, that is most acceptable.

Lots of Unit events next year.

**Good for Nothing** award recipients:

Bruce Johnsonbaugh    Judy Keilin    Lisa Assoni    Mark Humphrey

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

Future events.

- January 1 to January 7; Monterey Clambake Regional Tournament.
- Annual Unit 499 Membership meeting; March 3, 2024 at Rossmoor. A flyer will be available at most games early January. Check it out.
- Tunnel Tournament Saturday, April 27, 2024. Marian Renvall is managing the entries.
- Vance Seminar. April 13, 2024. Topic 'Hand Evaluation.' A flyer will be available at most games early January.
- Diablo Sectional in November.

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

Sam Earnhardt

# ...from the Editor

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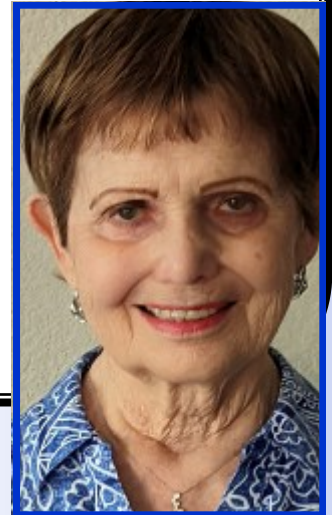
Lots of photos this month! Thanks to Lisa Assoni and Nevena Stoimirov for taking the time to document our Holiday Party. I think everyone had a great time enjoying the festive food and the camaraderie of old and new friends. Be sure to read Lisa's article on the event.

Jerry Weitzner's "Play a Hand" this month is his 100th article published in eDeclarer! That's more than eight years of contributions. Many thanks to Jerry for providing us with interesting hands and his expertise in analyzing each one. Keep 'em coming, Jerry!

I hope to see many of you in Monterey!

Happy New Year to all!

Judy Keilin



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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 JUNIOR MASTERS (5)***

Pamela Crook  
Linda McColgan  
Malak Saffouri  
Barry Shain  
Mary Kay Tullis  
Eppie Ying

### ***NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)***

Linda Cardiff  
Michael Quinn  
Lily Zhou

### ***NEW REGIONAL MASTER (100)***

Frankie Ferguson

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

Stephen Walker

### ***NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS (500-750)***

Clare Smith  
Susanna Walker

### ***NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER (1500)***

Alan Morris

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

Krishnan Thonaukolam



## **NEW MEMBERS**

Dave Tong  
Roberta Yamamoto  
Vincent Yamamoto  
Barbara Peterson  
Carol Tracy

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

# BRIDGE PLAYERS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!

And we did!

December 17th brought out the crowds. We had a fabulous Holiday Party!

See photos below...

When the invitation was sent out, folks responded so quickly, that the event was closed

within a very short window of time. Everyone attending was grateful to Mark and Lyn Humphrey.. This couple just keeps on giving— of their time, talents and love for Unit 499. It was indicated that light snacks would be provided.... ARE YOU KIDDIN' ME? Fresh Shrimps, sandwiches, salads, fruit, cold cuts, cheese, pizza and more.. Wowie dessert!! I was stuffed, happy and sassy.

Let the games begin....

Eating came to a halt, everyone took their seat, and the hands were dealt.

Winners: Section A

N/S

Susan Schicht.

Greta Westeson

E/W

Mike Kruley

Carol Griffin

Winner: Section B

N/S

Robert and Nancy Munson

E/W

Nevena Stoimirov

Wacom Mendelian

Happy New Year to all!

Lisa

The Shortcut Cook





# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

January, 2024

North

S 6

H AKQ763

D A762

C 92

West

S 98

H 4

D KQ54

C AKQ874

East

S 7543

H J1095

D 1093

C 105

South

S AKQJ102

H 82

D J8

C J63

1H P 1S 2C

2H P 4S P

P P P

This deal is from a column written by Barry Rigal who writes for the Bridge World and the ACBL Bulletin. I found it quite intriguing and hope you do too.

West led the two top clubs and East signaled with the 10 and 5 showing a doubleton so West continued with the Q.

It appears that you have lots of tricks here: 6 spades, 6 possible hearts, 1 diamond and a club ruff in dummy. Do you see a way to make 4 spades?

At the table, South trumped the club in dummy, East over ruffed and returned a diamond and South could not get to his hand to draw trumps so he went down.

Did this have to happen? The answer is that South should have made 4 Spades by making an unusual play of discarding a small red card on the Q clubs. South then wins any continuation so he can lead the 6 spades to his hand and draw the trumps.

This shows how complicated a hand can be while answering the question of What Can Go Wrong.

I am asking you, did you see this play?

Jerry Weitzner

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



# CLASSES

## Deb Rechnitz

### Declarer Play

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

Date: January 15th - March 4th (8 Sessions)

Day and Time: Monday Mornings (10am - 12 pm)

Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Instructor: Deb Rechnitz (drechnitz@comcast.net)

Cost: \$135

### Continuing Commonly Used Conventions

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

Date: January 15th - March 4th (8 Sessions)

Day and Time: Monday Afternoons (1pm - 3pm)

Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Instructor: Deb Rechnitz (drechnitz@comcast.net)

Cost: \$135

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

Day and Time: Wednesday Mornings 10:00am - 12:00pm

Dates: Ongoing

Location: Lafayette Recreation Center – 500 St. Mary's Road

Instructors: Carol Griffin nobidd45@gmail.com -and-

Deb Rechnitz drechnitz@comcast.net

Debby Rechnitz

Carol Griffin

At the Orinda Community Center: 925 254-2445

**The Defense/"Heart" class-part II** which starts at 10am to noon January 9-February 27

Part II covers Signals, Interfering with Declarer, Making a Defensive Plan, Developing Extra Tricks for the Defense, and Negative Doubles. We will be spending two weeks on each topic with lots of hands that demonstrate that week's lesson.

**Rusty Bridge-part I** starts at 1pm-3pm from January 9-February 27

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.

At the Lafayette Community Center: 925 284-2232

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

This class has shown to give the students much more practice with the lessons learned having taken the Diamond (**Play of the Hand**) course.

Eight hands are played each class, with a mini lesson that relates to the topic.

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

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

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

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

Carol Griffin



# Club News

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

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

## Overtricks by the Bay

193 Griffith Lane  
Brentwood

Overtricks 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)

Sharon Tarpinian

925-736-2461

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

Lilah Newton



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## December News

# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## January News

Happy New Year! CCBC will continue its efforts in 2024 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players. There will even be some games offering gold points at the club.

**No game – Monday, Jan 1**

**January 8-11** Jr Fund Games (extra MPs, extra \$1) - \$ goes to support ACBL's junior program

**January 22-25** – Jr Fund Games (extra MPs, extra \$1) - \$ goes to support ACBL's junior program

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)

**Please Note: due to holiday Jan 1 and Monterey Regional Tournament, the only LBC games held this week will be on Tuesday, January 2, Limited at 3pm, then dinner, then Open at 7pm.**

**We will begin new Sessions of our Classes the week of January 8, 2024.**

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

Wednesdays: **Defense** 7-9pm

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

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

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

#### **For the 2024 year:**

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

January 15 Reverse bidding. January 22 Competing/sacrificing; Tools to help you judge when and when NOT. Vulnerability helps

January 29 Jacoby 2NT.

February 5 Blackwood.

February 12 Key Card Slam Auctions.

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

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

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

#### GAME SCHEDULE:

- Tuesdays: 3:00-5:30pm, Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 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.
- Wednesdays: 3-5:30pm, (Beginning January 10): 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.
- Fridays: 10am - 1:15pm, **Limited 699** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

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

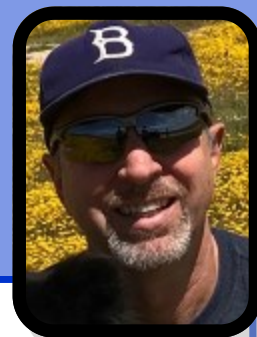
Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain  
Lamorinda Bridge Club  
183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556  
(Home) 925-376-1125  
Winnie: (Cell) 925-683-1908; [winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:winnie@wjasper.com)  
Jerry: (Cell) 925-766-5228; [jerry@wjasper.com](mailto:jerry@wjasper.com)

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

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

## **DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

**Veteran's Hall**



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

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

Michael Gosnell