

## President's Message



Holy Spades Batman!!!

Lead for an Uppercut!!! POW!!!

You're such a card, Robin. There are no Jokers in this deck. Get the Batmobile and our BatCalendar. So many exciting events this Summer and Fall. The Gotham Unit will never be the same. BAM!!!

Watch out for the Penguin's UpSideDown leads. He is never standard.

DON'T trust the Riddler.

Join the crime fighters Batman and Robin in these power packed games.

--June 20<sup>th</sup>, 499er Pro/Am in Orinda.

--August 29 thru September 4, Santa Clara All-Western Championship Regional.

--September 14, Team Play Seminar in Lafayette

--September 28 & 29, Diablo Sectional - Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse

--October 9 thru October 14, Table Mountain Regional (Fresno)

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

Sam Earnhardt

# ...from the Editor

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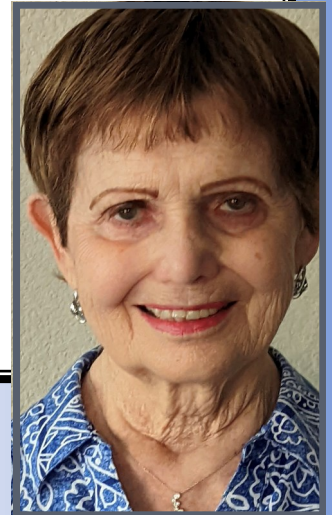
Lots of good info in this issue! Read about the upcoming ProAm Game and the North American Pairs, as well as some new classes starting soon.

Our newest club, Overtricks by the Bay, is thriving in its new location at the Senior Center in Brentwood. Only \$5 table fees with a membership to the Senior Center. Check out Club News in this issue for more details.

Hope to see you at a game sometime soon!

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 July is June 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 JUNIOR MASTERS (5)**

Laura Courtney  
Ramona Cresci  
Neal Gutters on  
Ronald Snyder  
Lynne Walter

### **NEW CLUB MASTER (20)**

Jeff Johnson

### **NEW SECTIONAL MASTER (50)**

Joan Baker

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

Beverly Kivel

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Linda Knight

Let's welcome Linda when we meet her at the tables.



# NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

## North American Pairs Qualifying Games

Clubs are allowed to hold qualifying games for the grass-roots North American Pairs event starting in June. You first play at your local clubs, and can qualify for the next level by getting a score of 50% or better. Or, you can qualify by scoring in the top half of your strat.

The strats are: Open (flight A)/2500 (flight B)/under 500/non LM (flight C). Note that if a field has two or fewer pairs, both pairs will qualify.

MP awards will be **50% red** and 50% black. Earning a qualification in any club-level NAP game in any District qualifies a player for his/her own District NAP finals.

No “short game” using fewer than eighteen boards will be considered for NAP qualification.

Check the schedule for the clubs in Unit 499 to see whether they are holding these games and when. The NAP qualifying games can also be held on BBO. Club qualifying games continue from June-August.

Michael Kruley

# PRO AM

Contra Costa Bridge Center (CCBC) is hosting a special Pro-Am event on Tuesday, June 20 for players with less than 1,000 Master Points.

This is truly special for several reasons:

- 1) It is the first time that we will be hosting a Pro-Am game dedicated to our beginning thru intermediate players;
- 2) As a “**Longest Day**” event, this game will support the ACBL’s fundraising for the **Alzheimer’s Association**; and
- 3) **Extra** ACBL MasterPoints will be awarded.

Pro-Am games have been very popular since introduced in our unit about fifteen years ago. By pairing a seasoned player with a less-experienced player, we create opportunities to meet new people and to learn. These games have always been a lot of fun - and are typically “sold out”.

**On June 20, we will gather at CCBC’s club (9 Altarinda Road in Orinda) at about 10am, and begin the game at 10:30. We anticipate concluding the game no later than 1:30. Deb and Wayne Rechnitz will be directing.**

**Given the limited space, we will have a maximum of 18 tables. So, reserve your spot as soon as possible (and no later than June 15)! Simply send me an e-mail at [markhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:markhumphrey@comcast.net).**

Once I receive all of the responses, I will designate the top 50% (by MP’s) as Pros. I will then match the Pros with the appropriate Ams.

By June 17, I will advise everyone of his or her partner. This early timing will give partners a couple of days to compare notes on bidding and play.

Coffee, tea, and soft drinks will be offered, along with assorted snacks. The table fee (for both Pros and Ams) will be \$10; this includes \$1 that will go to ACBL for the Alzheimer’s Association.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Humphrey

# NEW LESSONS

## Declarer Play

This is an eight-week course that focuses on the play of the hand and improves your ability to make your contracts. This class assumes introductory-level bridge skills. Accompanying book available for purchase.

Date: September 11- October 30 (8 Sessions)  
Day and time: Monday Mornings (10am-12pm)  
Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette  
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz  
Cost: \$135

## Commonly Used Conventions

This eight-session course takes a more in-depth look into Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Weak Two-bids and Strong Two Club Openings. It will also explore rebids and how to handle competitive interference. Accompanying book available for purchase.

Date: September 11- October 30 (8 Sessions)  
Day and time: Monday Afternoons (1pm-3pm)  
Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette  
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz  
Cost: \$135

## Introduction to Bridge

This course is open to new players who have never played before and those who haven't played for awhile and are looking for a refresher. Whether you want to just play socially or play with groups at the Bridge club, this class will help you understand and get maximum enjoyment out of the game using a hands-on learning approach developed by top teachers and players. Accompanying book available for purchase.

Date: September 7th - November 2nd (8 Sessions)  
(No class October 5th)  
Day and time: Thursday Mornings (10am-12pm)  
Location: Walnut Creek Rec Center - 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek  
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz  
Cost: \$135

# WHAT'S COOKIN'

It's June, and it's in full bloom. Time to tune-up our game. It's considered the top sunshine month. So share your bright smiles and your guiding light. The more experienced players, if asked, can shed a bit of glow to help others. Remember, unsolicited negative advice is never well-received. It's hard to keep quiet, when you see something so blatantly wrong. *I know, I'm Italian. Scarier yet! It's me that made the mistake!*

Summer is almost here, be ready to put on a bathing suit, and jump in a pool. OH yikes, I'd scare the kids! At least we can play bridge and stay out of the sun.

We have many tournaments popping up. Fresno is new on our list. It will be hosted at a Casino with numerous restaurants, room costs are reasonable and it's a nonsmoking Casino. Read more about it!

I usually play on Thursday. We've had fifteen tables, and Mark Marty is a great director. It's a 999er game. If I come in last one more time, it's a sign I need a refresher course. By reading this issue, you can glean lots of information about up-coming games and more. Kudos go Judy Keilin, and Mary Krouse for providing us the latest and greatness news. And don't miss our President, Sam Earnhardt's, message. We love Sam!

Are you back in the saddle again? Playing in person is up and running. AND—don't forget to sign up for our Pro-Am game coming soon. Save the date: June 20<sup>th</sup>. Mark Humphrey is very generous with his time and helps organize this wonderful event. His repeated success has helped many bridge players. You're terrific? Read more about it on our website. Must sign up soon.

Ciao Bella,

Lisa Assoni  
The ShortCut Cook



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

June, 2023

North

S A1072

H J6

D A976

C 1087

West

S 864

H A2

D QJ102

C K954

East

S Q95

H Q10975

D 83

C J62

South

S KJ3

H K843

D K54

C AQ3



1N P 2C P

2H P 2S P

3N P P P

Every so often a deal comes up that tells you how to play it. My partner invited me to game and I liked the fact that I had stoppers in all the suits so I bid 3N. By the way, if I had both majors I would respond 2H and then when he bids 2S, it tells me he is inviting game in either spades or NT. If I held a minimum I could pass with 4 spades or sign off in 2N.

West led the Q diamonds and it looks like I want West to keep leading to me so I don't have to.

Going with that idea I won with the K diamonds and led the 5 diamonds towards the dummy and when West played the 10, I let him hold it. West now led the 4 clubs to the 7 from dummy, the J from East and I won the Q. I then led the 4 diamonds to the 9 and cashed the A diamonds discarding 3 hearts and then led the 2 spades to my J spades, then cashed the K spades and a spade to the A and cashed the 10 spades discarding the 4 hearts while West discarded the 5 clubs.

Now thinking that West had the K clubs I played a club to my A and then the 3 clubs to West's K forcing West to lead hearts where I ended up with my K making 4.

As a result, making 430 was 100%, making 400 was 80% and making 120 was 60%.

Note, West should not have switched suits when I let him hold the diamond, his partner should give count so he would know how many diamonds I held. The saying that switching suits mid-stream usually costs a trick was right again.

Jerry Weitzner

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

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

[Dia-](#)

## Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

**Blackhawk Country Club**

**Contact Lilah Newton at**

**925-648-3154**

**[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)**

Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge game plays on the 1st and 4th Wednesdays at 9:30 at Blackhawk Country Club. It is open to all women, however, reservations are required. If interested in playing, please contact Lilah Newton.

Lilah Newton



## Carol Griffin

Come join Carol for Rusty Bridge from 1-3 or 2/1 from 10am-noon on Thursdays at Lafayette Community center (925 284-2232) or the Diamond Course/Play of the Hand from 10am-noon or Rusty Bridge from 1-3pm on Tuesdays at the Orinda Community Center (925 250-8415)

We also have social/supervised bridge all year round at the Lafayette Community Center every Wednesday which includes a mini-lesson before each game with help from either Carol Griffin or Debbie Rechnitz

**Carol T Griffin**

**400 Beacon Ridge Lane**

**Walnut Creek, CA 94597**

**Tel 925 933 3535**

**Email: [nobidd45@gmail.com](mailto:nobidd45@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: [carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com](http://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com)**

**If this is an emergency please call as I do not necessarily look at my email every day. Please consider the environment before printing this email**



## 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

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor

There was no submission this month, so check out the game schedule at <http://diablovalleybridge.com/rossmoor-bridge/>



## Overtricks by the Bay

193 Griffith Lane  
Brentwood



OVERTRICKS BY THE BAY has officially started at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center. Game time is 9am on Tuesdays. Table fees will be \$5 to start and \$4 after a short period.

Mark Marty ([thatsafire@gmail.com](mailto:thatsafire@gmail.com)) or  
925-487-7832)

# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## June News

**Special games in June** – lots of them – see below.

Weeks of **June 5-9 and 12-16**– NAP qualifying games flights A, B & C – Monday Open game in Orinda and Wednesday and Friday open games on BBO. Extra MPs (1/2 red). Extra \$1.

Special NAP flight C (0-500) qualifying game on **Saturday, June 10** on BBO at 10:00AM. Extra MPs (1/2 red). Extra \$1.

**June 20** – Longest Day Alzheimer's game – instead of our usual Tuesday 299er game, we will have a mini-Pro-Am with a MP limit of 999. Players will be matched based on MPs. Extra MPs to be won. \$10 fee for both pros and ams. Space is limited, so **reserve your spot as soon as possible (and no later than June 15)! Simply send an e-mail to Mark Humphrey at [markhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:markhumphrey@comcast.net).**

Week of **June 26-30** – Club championships – we will have club championship games for all in-person games. Lots of extra MPs with no extra charge!

CCBC continues its hybrid schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda and on-line on BBO. **CCBC is now hosting games on Mondays (open at 11:15), Tuesdays (299er at 10:00) and Thursdays (999er at 10:30) at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road.** Games continue on BBO on Wednesday (open at 10:00) and Friday (open at 10:00).

**Reminder: Tuesday's 10 AM bridge game in Orinda is a 299'er game,** with the following features:

- 1) A mini-lesson will precede each game, with a review of a couple of hands from the prior week.
- 2) 18 boards will typically be played.
- 3) Each player will have the opportunity to ask 2 bidding questions during the game.
- 4) Games will be stratified by Master Point level; so players are competing with others with comparable experience.
- 5) A player may come with a partner or as a single. (Singles can count on being matched with a partner.)
- 6) Mentoring will be encouraged. An experienced player in the 200-299 MP range playing with one in the 0-50 range will play for free.

## Full Schedule

Monday 11:15 Open **in person** \$9

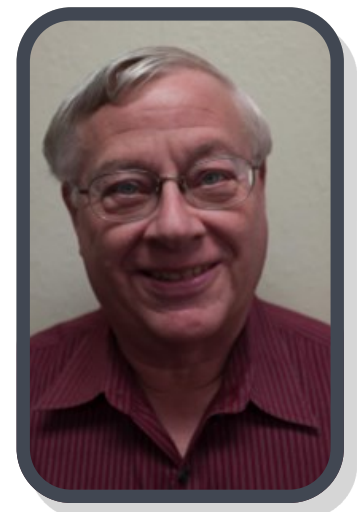
Tuesday 10:00 299er **in person** \$8

Wednesday 10:00 Open **Online** \$5

Thursday 10:30 999er **In Person** \$9

Friday 10:00 Open **Online** \$5

Michael Kruley



# Lamorinda Bridge Club



## Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

Please note: New class sessions will begin August 7 as follows:

**Mondays:** 9:30am - 11:30am Defense  
1pm-3pm Single Topic Seminars  
7pm – 9pm Bidding in the 21st Century

**Wednesdays:** 7pm – 9pm Play of the Hand Game Schedule (June through July):

**Tuesdays:** 3:00-5:30pm, Supervised Play; 14-16 boards with Master Points Awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is Limited 499 game; \$10 table fee. ·  
7-9:45pm Open Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee. Optional Potluck Supper 5:45-6:45pm, \$5.

**Fridays:** 10am - 1:15pm, Limited 499 Game; \$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.)

**For June 1 – July 24** Please make your Game Reservations with Melinda Matson Hall: Cell: (925) 330-2435; Email: melindamatsonhall@gmail.com. Melinda will be our Director for Club Games during this period of time.

Questions: Please contact Winnie at 925-683-1908 or winnie@wjasper.com.  
Lamorinda Bridge Club, 183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

Or Melinda Matson Hall Cell Phone: (925) 330-2435; Email: melindamatsonhall@gmail.com

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

Winnie