

## President's Message



Our bridge community is blessed with unselfish contributions from many players. This month's message is about awards for these people. See the story at the end of this Message about Mr. Multipoo.

I was talking with Mr. French Bulldog, a long time Unit 499 player (and very accomplished). He was asking about the D21 (District 21) Goodwill Award (which is a District award). There are many, many players who work to maintain and improve our Bridge Community. Here is the background on that award and some of the Unit 499 recipients (there are also recipients from all of District 21 Units).

The Goodwill Award acknowledges and recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions and personal qualities that lead to the promotion of bridge. There are many unselfish individuals in our bridge community who contribute to our excellent games.

Over the past decade or so, there have been many Goodwill Award winners. Here is a list:

Ron Olswang, 2009

Larry Miller, 2012

Lynne Humphrey, 2023

Jackie Zayac, 2015

Mark Humphrey, 2016

Anne Hollingsworth, 2017

Andy Fine, 1019

Lyn Sacco, 2020

Sam Earnhardt, 2023

### **Good for Nothing Awards** (a Unit 499 award).

Anne Hollingsworth

Bruce Johnsonbaugh

Judy Keilin

Lisa Assoni

Mark Humphrey

Mr. Multipoo

Chuck Silva

Lynne Humphrey

Kit Miller

Two years ago, while at the Monterey Regional Tournament, I was waiting at the steps going into the Bridge venue. I saw a woman with a cane and a cup of coffee starting to go up the four or five steps into the venue. A gentleman, close by, quickly walked over and asked if he could help her (carry her coffee). He helped her up the steps and through the doors to the venue. I didn't know his name – but I named him Mr. Multipoo. There are selfless acts every day. I hope that I can be a 'Mr. Multipoo'.

The 'Good for Nothing' award is a Unit Award. It is not for someone who does nothing but for someone who does tasks without expectation of award or recognition.

**Future Events (details are posted on [unit499.com](http://unit499.com))**

Reno Sparks Regional, October 6 to October 12

NABC San Francisco, November 27 to December 7

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

Sam Earnhardt, PMP

President Unit 499

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Cell: 925-395-6426

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<a href="#">President's Message</a>	1
<a href="#">From The Editor</a>	3
<a href="#">Unit 499 Milestones</a>	4
<a href="#">Lisa's Article</a>	5
<a href="#">Sectional Flyer</a>	6
<a href="#">Jerry's Hand</a>	7
<a href="#">Classes</a>	9
<a href="#">Club News</a>	11

### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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***Deadline for November is October 20***



Mary Krouse, Publisher

## ***...from the Editor***

We are fortunate to have access to so many Regionals and Sectionals without having to fly. This year the Fall NABC is being held in San Francisco. If you haven't experienced a national tournament, here's your chance. You can play, and you can volunteer, so plan to make some time to be a part of it.

See you at the tables!

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 MASTER (5)*

Barbara Cahn

Parul Desai

### *NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)*

Laurie Howard

Steven Lazare

Malak Saffouri

Nancy Vasko

### *NEW SECTIONAL MASTER (50)*

Carol Brooks

### *NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500/750)*

Dave Tong

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

Carroll Brooks

Randy Slinger

### *NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5000)*

Lisa Evans



## **NEW MEMBERS**

Karen Brockwell

Eric McNamara

Cheryl Larsen

Houpei Wei

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

# WHO'S KNOCKING?



Boo-Boo-- I want to scare you!!!! Yes, we're not supposed to open our doors to strangers, yet we continue this old custom. Why and how did it start?

Halloween originated from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of summer, the beginning of the new year, and the time when the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead was blurred. Christianity later incorporated these pagan traditions by establishing [All Saints' Day](#) ([November 1](#)) and [All Souls' Day](#) ([November 2](#)), with the night before All Saints' Day becoming "All Hallows' Eve". The celebration evolved with Irish and other European immigrants bringing traditions, like souling and costumes, to America, where they blended with local customs to create the modern holiday of Halloween. Its unique traditions of trick-or-treating, costumes, and carved pumpkins. Eat your candy, and maybe share leftovers with bridge friends. We all love chocolate!

How are you doing? Besides chowing down candy, as we get more mature, we need people too...It really helps to socialize and train our brain. Please check out our website for the latest updates for upcoming sectionals and unit games. There's a new class catering to beginner players, point limit is posted. --[Unit499.com/](http://Unit499.com/) click it, you'll like it!

Please treasure your partner. I speak from experience. My partner had to stop playing for personal issues. As we begin the journey of becoming a Life Master, there's self-satisfaction, and camaraderie at the tables.

Salute to Bridge,

Lisa Assoni,

ShortCut Cook (™)

# EAST BAY FALL SECTIONAL



**Mastick Senior Center  
1155 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda**

## **Saturday, November 15**

- 10am, 3pm Two-Session Stratified Open Pairs  
0-750/750-2500/2500+  
(single session allowed)
- 10am, 3pm Single Session Stratified 499er Pairs  
0-100/100-300/300-499
- 10am Single Session 99er Pairs  
**NEW! \*\*Q&A after the game - 99ers only\*\***

## **Sunday, November 16**

- 10am, TBA Barbara Harmon Bracketed Swiss  
(must play both sessions)

### **Entry Fees (credit card only)**

ACBL Members: \$15/player/session  
Non-ACBL Members: \$19/player/session

Free coffee, tea, snacks, and parking  
Lunch available for purchase at the door (cash only)

Questions? Need a Partner? Don Levine 510-421-0254 drlsoccer@aol.com

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

October, 2025

North

S AJ1076

H 75

D A9

C J942

West

S 9542

H 109862

D 52

C Q6

East

S K

H KQ43

D K108763

C 85



South

S Q83

H AJ

D QJ4

C AK1073

P 1D 1N P

2H 3D 3S P

4S P P P

A few month's back we discussed how sometimes bidding as an opponent can help declarer in the play by adopting lines that normally wouldn't be best percentage.

I overcalled 1N with my hand and my partner transferred to spades and East bid again. I ac-

cepted the transfer and my partner put me in game.

The opening lead was the 5D and I could see that virtually all the high cards were in the East hand so I said to myself, “Do you feel lucky punk?” a famous quote from Dirty Harry.

I won the A of diamonds and thought I was going to lose a high spade and a diamond and maybe even a club trick so I started to draw trumps by playing the A and that dropped the K and I led 3 more rounds of trump while East discarded 2 diamonds and a heart. I discarded my J hearts.

I next cashed the A and K clubs dropping the Q and played 3 more clubs, East discarded 2 more diamonds and 1 heart while I discarded the 9 diamonds and trumped a diamond in the dummy setting up my last diamond making 7. I took 5S, 1H, 2D and 5 clubs for 100% out of a field of 240 tables. I think East didn’t see my J hearts because he could have held onto a high diamond.

Most players did not bid with that garbage that East had so a lot of the declarers took the spade finesse losing to the K and had a diamond been led initially they would have lost an early diamond to the K making 5.

Tune in for next month’s “Do you feel lucky punk?” part 2

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

## 2025 Bridge Class Schedules



**In Orinda:** 925 254 2445 (26 Orinda Way)

### **Rusty Bridge Part III                      Tuesdays, October 21 December 9      1pm—3pm**

Part III covers what we could not finish in Part II, most likely Preemptive bidding, what is and is not a Forcing bid, and bidding in the “balancing” seat. Other confusing subjects like reverse bids, the law of total tricks, etc. may be covered time permitting. There will be lots of practice hands (8+) with each class.

### **The Heart Series/Defense-    Tuesdays, October 21--December 9      10am – noon**

**Part I** encompasses Leads against NT, Leads against Suit contracts, Second-Hand play, and Third-Hand play. The course book is available online. There will be lots of hands with which to practice.

### **Rusty Bridge Part I                      Wednesdays, November 5 Dec 17      1pm-3 pm**

This 7-week course is for those who want to update their bridge game while completely reviewing solid basic bidding. There will be 8 hands to practice with each class. One must have some basic understanding of bridge bidding for this class. This is not for beginners. A booklet is available from the instructor for \$15 which covers Rusty Bridge I, II, and III

**In Lafayette:** 925 284-2232 (500 St. Mary’s Rd.)

### **Rusty Bridge Part II                      Thursdays, October 16 - November 6      10am – noon**

Part II covers Stayman, Blackwood, and Gerber conventions, “Two Club” openings and responses, Weak Two openings, Preemptive bidding, Forcing bids, and bidding in the “balancing” seat. Each session will consist of a half-hour lecture and 1-1/2 hours of supervised play with pre-dealt hands that illustrate the day’s subject. A workbook covering both Part I and Part II is available from the instructor for \$15.

It is a popular variation of the Standard American bidding system. This system helps the players get to the best game contracts or explore Slam possibilities at a lower level. We also introduce the response of 1NT as a forcing bid to improve potential part score contracts. Each class will have practice hands to help experience this modification. The textbook I use is Audrey Grant's 2 over 1 Game Force which can be bought on the internet.

**PLUS:**

(also, at the Lafayette Community Center)

**Drop-in Social Bridge**

This is open *all year round* on Wednesdays from 10am – noon. This is a social gathering of bridge players to practice what they have learned from their classes in a friendly manner with help, if asked, by the teacher. There is a 15-minute lesson before playing. One does need a good basic understanding of bridge bidding to attend. Buy a book of tickets at the office. You are always welcome, and no partner is needed.

Carol also teaches at Country Clubs, and Retirement Communities and offers private classes on request.

Email her for more information: **nobidd45@gmail.com**



# 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



Blackhawk Ladies Bridge is held the 1st and 4th Wednesdays at the Blackhawk Country club. Starting time is at 9:30. For reservations contact:

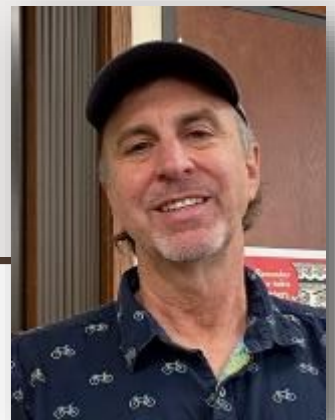
Lilah Newton  
[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)  
925 963-0452

## 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



Overtricks by the Bay  
193 Griffith Lane  
Brentwood



Overtricks by the Bay meets on Tuesdays at 9am at the Brentwood Senior Center.

Table fees are \$5, or \$4 with a pre-purchased punch card with ten games for \$40. There is a mini-lesson before each game. Partnerships are guaranteed. For more information, contact Mark Marty ([thatsafire@gmail.com](mailto:thatsafire@gmail.com)) or 925-487-7832.

Diablo Bridge  
Diablo Country Club  
1 Country Club Drive Diablo



The Diablo Bridge game is held at Diablo Country Club on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The game 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](mailto:diablokr@gmail.com)

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

Special Games in October:

October 6-11 - Club Appreciation Week

October 20-25 - Club Appreciation Week

NO games October 31 and November 1 due to the annual bazaar.

We are trying to get the Oak Room to reschedule the Swiss Team game that was cancelled in September. Nothing is scheduled at this time.

Kit Miller



## Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

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

### October News

CCBC continues its efforts in 2025 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players. We are providing 2 more weeks of special games in October, plus one-time special games on a Monday, 2 on Thursdays, and 2 (ACBL-wide) on Wednesdays.

Finally, we have a Pro-Am Unit game on a Saturday. Lots of chances to win extra MPs.

Here is the busy October schedule of special games:

**Thurs October 2** – Upgraded Club Championship – maximum # of MPs at club level at no extra charge.

**Weeks of Oct 6 and 20** – Club Appreciation Games – extra MPs, no extra charge

**Wed Oct 15** – ACBL-wide Silver Senior game (must be 60+ to earn MPs – extra \$1, silver points for overall finish at District or National level)

**Sat Oct 25** – Pro-Am (Unit game)

**Mon October 27** – Go Local/Silver Quest (33% silver)

**Wed October 29** – ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint game Extra \$1 – special handout from ACBL with game analysis. Receive Matchpoint scores instantly after each hand. Awards 1.00 Gold for Top in each stratum 750 and up! Remainder is 25% Gold, 25% Silver, 25% Red, 25% Black

**Thurs October 30** – Go Local/Red Hot Challenge (33% red)

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), October 2025

### GAME SCHEDULE:

#### Tuesdays:

**Game:** 2:00-5:00pm **Limited 699** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

**Optional Light Supper (Entrée & Salad):** 5:00-5:45pm, \$5

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

#### Fridays:

**Game:** 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:**[No October Game due to travel conflict], **November 15, December 20.**

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 Class on Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will began on Monday, September 8, 9:30am-11:30am and continues for 9 sessions at a cost of \$200/person and includes the Textbook.**

This series is ideal for "rusty bridge players" and also beginners. We also have a number of returnees who often get more out of the series than the first time around. Winnie and I often hear from return attendees "I didn't realize how much I did not know. It is making more sense to me now".

We use the ACBL textbooks to teach bridge from beginning to intermediate and advanced. All Series 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.

contact information at the end).

**Specialty Subject Seminars Monday afternoons from 1-3pm. \$20 per session. You may opt for any or all of the subjects you wish to attend.**

**October 6- Jacoby 2NT-** one of the most enjoyable conventions in all of bridge. We will examine what requirements are needed by the responder and the subsequent responses by opener.

**October 13- Takeout Doubles-** expectations and how does partner respond. What type of hand distributions and values are expected in both the direct seat as well as the indirect seat. Two different situations. And what your partner does with the information.

**October 20- Negative doubles.** Responder, opener, and advancer all have options. This is arguably the most important convention in all of bridge.

**October 27- Limit Raises** - both majors and minors. **Bergen raises.**

Please sign up in advance for any future classes with Winnie by phone or email or text (see contact information at the end).

**As in the past, reservations will be required for all Face-to-Face duplicate games.** Wearing

masks will be optional. (All games are awarded Master Points and Pair Games have hand records

available and posted on the results page at [www.https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973](https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973).)

Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

Lamorinda Bridge Club

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

(Home) 925-376-1125

Winnie: (Cell) 925-683-1908; [winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:winnie@wjasper.com)

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

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