

## President's Message



Holy Bananas Batman, the Batdog and I just got back from the Regional in Sparks Nevada!!!!

We played in the open pairs two-session event on two different days. We played against the National two-time high Master Point champion (Mark Itabashi, Newport Beach, CA) and a prominent Bridge Teacher (Barbara Seagram - Alex Kornel, Toronto ON). Some fireworks are always present when competitive players meet.

In one match, Mr. and Mrs. Bulldog were playing against Mr. and Mrs. Great Dane. In one auction, Mrs. Dane said to Mr. Bulldog 'Why are you staring at your partner – are you trying to alert her to a special bid?' The tone was rude and overbearing. Mr. Bulldog calmly replied: 'My wife is so beautiful, I can't keep my eyes off her'. Yeah, sparks were flying. But Mr. Bulldog was cool and polite; even managing a compliment toward his wife. Yes, this is a true episode.

Here's the monthly message. There are competitive players and even some rude and overbearing players. Keep your cool and relax. Call the director if necessary. Don't return rudeness and hostility with additional rudeness and hostility. Be kind.

### **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			

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 and details are posted on [unit499.com](http://unit499.com) home page.

NABC San Francisco November 27 to December 7

Monterey Clambake January 5 to January 11

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

Sam Earnhardt, PMP

President Unit 499

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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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Editor: Judy Keilin

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***Deadline for December is November 21***



Mary Krouse, Publisher

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

This seems like a good time to introduce an idea that Mary and I have discussed recently. We've been doing the newsletter for eleven years, and are willing to pass the torch should any of you like to take it over. Another option would be to "apprentice" one or both of us, as Editor and/or Publisher.

Neither of us is looking to quit anytime soon, but feel that a backup should be in place to ensure smooth transition if necessary.

I am a firm believer that a change of personnel can be a positive force. New ideas and leadership are energizing. Think about running for the board, or taking on the newsletter.

Contact me if you're interested or have questions.

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)***

Jackie Bateman

Linda Carlson

Ling Dawes

Jim Gabriel

### ***NEW CLUB MASTERS (50)***

Carl Blaha

Brett Casper

Suzanne Fryer

### ***NEW NABC MASTER (200)***

Sheng (David) Dou

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

Hazel Finato



## **NEW MEMBERS**

Vel Snider

Jackie Dahlgard

Debbie Katz

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

# THANKSGIVING

It's that time of year again, seems like last month, that we'll celebrate Thanksgiving. Americans consume over forty-six million turkeys on this day.

Turkey has lots of meanings, and one is, when I bomb at the bridge table. When folks try and gobble-you-up with their aggressive bidding, don't get your feathers up. Like everyone who plays bridge knows, this game is quite a learning experience. I often make the same mistakes more than once, always trying to remember not to repeat them, and feeling like such a turkey when I do. I heard turkeys are not too bright, but actually their little brains are quite intelligent. So the next time you play like a turkey and get the stuffing knocked out of you, just remember what happens to most turkeys at Thanksgiving. Keep your heads about ya!



## NEWSLETTER EVOLUTION

As Thanksgiving is about what we're grateful for, I think it's time to thank Judy Keilin and Mary Krouse, two women who have dedicated their time and talent to keep us informed about what's cookin' at the bridge center.

Did you know---in April, 2011, Judy Keilin was on the Unit 499 Board? Bruce Johnsonbaugh was President and Judy got the idea to implement a method to keep us updated about current bridge topics. She considered mailing a paper newsletter, but thought that the cost was over-the-top. Once she decided on an online newsletter, Mary also stepped up to-the-table and was on-board with Judy to become the publisher. The content has varied, as the unit website contains much information about events and games, so Judy and Mary invited folks like me to write a column.

The name of the newsletter was up for grabs. A contest asking for title suggestions was put forward, and Ally Whiteneck came up with the current title – eDeclarer. You go girls!!!! Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving to All

Lisa Assoni

The Short Order 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

# NAP FINALIST

NAP - North American Pairs, is an event that is played every year at the Spring Nationals. Pairs must qualify by placing in the top three or four in their district (depending on the flight).

During the summer months, clubs can hold up to two qualifying games each month. Those who place in the top half of the field are then qualified to the Unit level.

In previous years, there have been Unit NAP games, sending a certain number to the District game, but since COVID, this step has been bypassed, and all club qualifiers are eligible to play in the District NAP Qualifying Game, usually held in late fall/January.

Based on the names I saw. I was the only Unit 499 qualifier. FYI, my partner is from the Sacramento area.

Mark Marty

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FROM THE EDITOR

Congratulations to Mark Marty for qualifying to compete in the NAP finals at the SF Nationals! Join me in sending Mark some winning vibes, or better yet, come to Mark's Brentwood game on Tuesdays and wish him well in person.

Thanks from your newsletter staff (Mary Krouse and me) for the nice tribute from Lisa Assoni in her column this month. Be sure to read the Editor's Note following the article, and think about getting involved.

See you at the tables.

Judy Keilin

Editor

# NABC IN SAN FRANCISCO

Unit 499 wants to recognize the multiple members supporting the North American Bridge Championships (NABC) held in San Francisco at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Dates of the NABC are November 27 through December 7th.

Anne Hollingsworth, a tireless volunteer is the Chair for this National event. There are many added features over the ten-day event including fun challenges and different twists of play. Anne encourages reading the flyer posted on the ACBL website and planning a visit to San Francisco for the Championships. She is also sponsoring the Friday, December 5th two-session game "Anne Hollingsworth Adopt-a-Cat Fast Pairs".

Kathrine Loh and Michael Gosnell, are each sponsoring bridge sessions for players with 0-299 points. On November 29th, Saturday, the morning session is sponsored by Kathrine Loh and the afternoon session is sponsored by Michael Gosnell. Kathrine and Michael have been active teaching multiple series of lessons and encouraging new players to pursue duplicate play.

Jackie Zayac is sponsoring the December 4 Thursday afternoon Mid-Flight Pairs.

Having the Nationals so close happens every six or seven years. The Unit Board encourages attending the Nationals and experience the joy of bridge.

Marian Renvall



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

November, 2025

North

S A8

H 872

D 65

C AQJ1093

West

S 9653

H K954

D 732

C K2

East

S J742

H QJ10

D K984

C 54



South

S KQ10

H A63

D AQJ10

C 876

1N P 3N P

P P

You are now going to see why I called this “Do you feel lucky punk” part 2.

This result was determined by an opening lead that just didn’t work out.

Look at the West hand and decide what you would have led after hearing the auction. Most of the time when the bidding goes this way you try to lead a major suit and my thinking is that you should lead the one where with a little help from your partner you can take some tricks. My opponent led the 3 spades and from that holding it will take until next month to get even 1 trick in that suit.

Look what it did for me. I won the spade in my hand and led the 8 clubs and when that held, I led another club, winning in dummy and now I took the diamond finesse and then ran 4 more clubs, cashed the A spades and took another diamond finesse, making 7: 3 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 6 clubs.

I am not sure how I would have played this had a heart been led. I might have ducked one or 2 rounds then making only 5. With the spade lead, I could finesse as much as I wanted and when they both worked you can see why I called it “Do you feel lucky punk” part 2 for 92%

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

## 2025 Bridge Class Schedules



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

**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.)

(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



The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 10. Men are invited to join us on this special day. Game time is 9:30am in the main dining room, beginning with pastry and coffee/tea.

We will play our entire game and then have lunch around 1pm. Lunch is a cup of soup followed by an entree salad topped by your choice of grilled chicken or salmon. Belgian chocolates will be passed for dessert.

To make a reservation, contact

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

You may also contact Sharon Tarpinian at 925-200-9758 or [enchantment-s@comcast.net](mailto:enchantment-s@comcast.net).

Reservations are required!

Lilah Newton

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)

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



## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

Special games in November:

NO GAME November 1 due to bazaar in the Oak Room

November 7 and 8 will be regular games. (Incorrectly listed as bazaar in Directory.)

November 10-15 - Club Appreciation Week

November 17-22 - Holiday STaC game, \$1 extra

November 22 - POP-UP game

Kit Miller



Contra Costa Bridge Center  
Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

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

### November News

CCBC continues its efforts in 2025 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players. We are providing 3 more weeks of special games in November, plus one-time “glitter point” games on a Monday and a Wednesday.

Starting **Thursday, October 2**, we raised the limit for that game from under 1000 MPs to under 1250 MPs. We hope that some of our players who recently passed 1000 MPs (congratulations!) will again come and play on Thursday. Others who are approaching that number will be able to continue to play on Thursday.

Here is the busy November schedule of special games:

CCBC continues its schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda.

**Week of November 3** – Club championships (extra MPs, no extra charge)

**Week of November 10** – Club championships (extra MPs, no extra charge)

**Week of Nov 17** – Royal STaC (**extra \$1, extra MPs – ¼ each gold, red, silver and black points, and a chance for additional MPs with a high finish in District 21**). All 3 games will participate.

**Nov 24 & 26** (Mon & Wed) –Go Local/Centennial (33% gold, no extra charge)

**Nov 27 (Thurs) – No game** – Thanksgiving

*Thank you for your support of CCBC!*

*Michael Kruley*



# Lamorinda Bridge Club



**Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC), November**

**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 or November Games due to travel conflict], December 20, 2025.**

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 Play of the Hand in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will begin on Monday, January 12, 2026, 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.**

**November 3- 2C opener** and partner's response. We will show various conventional responses. Subsequent auction. Step responses, 2D waiting, 2H negative, control responses (my personal favorite).

**November 10- 2 suited overcalls; Michaels and Unusual**

November 17- no session.

**November 24 -- New Minor Force (NMF) and fourth suit forcing (FSF)**

NMF is an opportunity that arises maybe 3-6 times each round of bridge. VERY VALUABLE TOOL AT THE BRIDGE TABLE.

**December 1-Blackwood slam convention;** regular and how to respond when having a void.

**December 8- Keycard slam convention**

**December 15- Leads and signals**

December 22- no session.

December 29- no session.

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**