

## President's Message



Merry ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

From all my canine friends and Unit 499 Board Directors – Happy Holidays

Mr. Pug	Ms. Cocker Spaniel	Mr. Great Dane	Mr. Afghan Hound
Ms. Akita	Mr. Affenpinscher	Ms. Chihuahua	Mrs. Hairless Terrier
Mr. Beagle	Ms. Cotralian	Ms. Poodle	Mr. Dachshund
Mr. Bulldog	Mr. Goldendoodle	Ms. Bernedoodle	Ms. Rabbit
Mr. Frog	Mr. Yorkshire Terrier	Mr. Cavapoo	Ms. Border Collie
Mr. French Bulldog			

Here's my message: enjoy time with friends and family. Commit to Partner Kindness and say Thank You to the Directors.

My personal Thank You to the Unit members for making my life as President fun and rewarding.

## **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 that does nothing but for someone that does tasks without expectation of award or recognition.

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

Monterey Clambake January 5 to January 11

Unit 499 Annual Membership meeting March 7

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

Sam Earnhardt, PMP

President Unit 499

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

Cell: 925-395-6426

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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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Mary Krouse, Publisher

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

Happy Holidays everyone!

First: thanks to Kathrine Loh for the interesting article she shared. Contributions are always welcome.

This issue was a challenge for me due to some health issues and I feel great that I got it done. Hopefully next month will be better.

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)**

Yvonne Bruce

Jane Wadell

Rich Williams

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

Jay Desai

Archana Kapur

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

Martha Ann Wishnev

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

Malcolm Mendelson



## **NEW MEMBERS**

Sharon Duncan

Marc Mazer

J B P Vital

Jane Bradley

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

I want to send a huge thank you to Judy for getting out this month's issue despite health issues.

We all greatly appreciate your efforts.

Mary Krouse



Christmas is not celebrated by everyone. The first recorded date of Christmas was celebrated on December 25 in 336 A.D. during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (he was the first Christian Roman Emperor). A few years later, Pope Julius I, officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th of December.

We may choose to deck the halls with bells of holly, get on the road and try to be jolly, and watch the drivers cut you off. You scramble for the right gifts, and get into tiffs. Oh! What a time to be so melancholy!

When it comes to us optimistic bridge player's, this Holiday season brings lots of opportunities. Like the warmth and coziness of playing at your local bridge club, a fun-filled day, with the only wish that may come true, is winning a Master Point or two.

Cheers were heard throughout the Pro-Am game. Mark Humphrey spends days, weeks and hours to bring this wonderful game to life. Mark and Lynne are our heroes. They bring us together, year after, so thank you to this wonderful duo. I was paired with Beverly Weiss. She demonstrated patience, caring and a great mentor. Those who joined the Pro-Am game, were also blessed with gracious Pros.

Don't forget to check out our website, [Unit499.com](http://Unit499.com), for the latest, hot off the table, updates.

Lisa Assoni  
ShortCutCook (™)

# What makes duplicate bridge so fascinating?

Duplicate bridge is recognized for its complexity and intellectual appeal. Notably, prominent figures such as Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, and Mark Zuckerberg employ professional players to play with them for national tournaments, highlighting the game's value among the very rich and influential individuals. As Bill Gates observes, "Bridge provides the kind of mental acuity that is handy for anything you want to do with excellence."

At the highest level, bridge necessitates strategic thinking and sound decision-making, skills esteemed in both business and technology sectors. Its intricate nature offers vast opportunities for intellectual development and competitive engagement, making it particularly attractive to those who appreciate rigorous mental challenges. While bridge is often regarded as a pursuit of perfection, it is equally a discipline where minimizing mistakes is paramount.

Bridge encompasses elements of logic, analysis, sport, counting, partnership, and community. It extends far beyond mere competition; in duplicate bridge, emphasis is placed on continuous learning and self-improvement rather than solely on outcomes—a distinction from party or money bridge games. Logical reasoning and quantitative assessment underpin both bidding and play.

The game cultivates character by reinforcing the importance of ongoing education and communication. Just when you think you have discussed everything with your partner something new comes up so it is very humbling. Success varies, underscoring the dynamic nature of performance and understanding. The challenge lies in refining communication between partners and their execution at each hand and at each session.

Moreover, bridge offers sustained mental stimulation, demanding constant cognitive engagement throughout play. Participation at the national level is mentally demanding, often resulting in significant fatigue. The development of effective partnerships is essential for achieving success in this intellectually rigorous environment. I have previously written an article about the importance of partnerships, and I have named that document appropriately "Your partner is a gift".

Submitted by Kathrine Loh

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me  
2025

December,



North

S AJ102

H QJ6

D KQ32

C J2

West

S Q

H A108542

D A76

C 754

East

S K8765

H 973

D J1095

C 10

South

S 943

H K

D 84

C AKQ9863

1D P 2C 2H

2S 3H 4C P

5C P P P

As you all know, sometimes you cannot get to the best matchpoint contract. Take this hand for example. I was North and opened 1D, my partner responded 2C and West bid 2H. I could have said 2N but I didn't think I was good enough to do that so I bid 2S hoping my partner had the right hand to ask for a heart stopper. East now bid 3H and my partner couldn't say 3N so he said 4C and I bid 5C. 5C looks like a good contract but it's not going to score well because 3N makes at least 4.

The opening lead was the Q spades and now it looks like 5C is going down. This lead smells like a singleton. Don't you just hate it when your opponents lead their singletons against your suit contract? Further thought here is that for once you hope it is a singleton and that West has both aces, watch what happens.

You win the A spades and draw 3 rounds of trump and then lead the K hearts. West will have to win it and since West has the A diamonds, that is their last trick, you get 1 spade, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 7 clubs scoring 11 tricks.

Notice that it is difficult to set 3H more than your game.

I did check out some other results and at one of them, same contract and lead, the declarer gave up a spade and lost 3 tricks, minus 50 for 3%. Plus 400 was 25% and plus 430 was 60%.

Some days the opponents earn their good boards!!

Jerry Weitzner

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. <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.

The cost is \$40. 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.

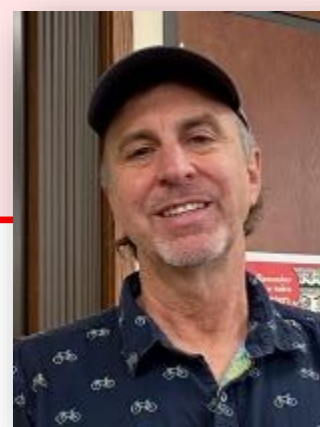
Table fees are \$5, or \$4 with a pre-purchased punch card with ten games for \$40. There is a mini-lesson before each game. Partnerships are guaranteed. For more information, contact Mark Marty ([thatsafire@gmail.com](mailto:thatsafire@gmail.com)) or 925-487-7832.

Danville Duplicate Bridge Club

Veteran's Hall  
Hartz Ave, Danville

Unfortunately, Michael will be unable to run the Danville bridge game due to a fall on his bike. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The next scheduled Danville game is Jan 9th.



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 cost is \$40.

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

December 1-6 will be a Club Championship Week.

December 6 will NOT be a Unit game as originally scheduled. This change is due to the closeness of the Nationals being held in San Francisco.

Monday, December 8, will be our MEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCH. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by the Annual Meeting at 12:30, followed by our regular game. The lunch and meeting are for MEMBERS ONLY, but guests are welcome to play in the 1pm game.



December 15-20 will be Stardust Week.

## UPCOMING CHANGES IN JANUARY

Effective January 1 the Friday morning game will return to a 99er game.

Effective January 1 the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club will change ACBL classification from an Invitational Club to an Open Club. This will allow for more masterpoints to be awarded. It does not change membership eligibility, which requires members to live in Rossmoor.

Kit Miller

# Contra Costa Bridge Center Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

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

## December 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 December, plus a one-time unit game on a Saturday.

CCBC will hold its regular games the week of **December 1** during the NABCs in San Francisco. We encourage players to attend those Nationals, but we will have our usual games for those who are not planning to be in SF on those days.

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 December schedule of special games:

Week of **December 8** – Club membership games (extra MPs, no extra charge)

Saturday, **Dec. 13** - Unit game, holiday party, extra food (extra MPs, no extra charge). **Pre-registration is required. (Registration began on November 11. All tables have been reserved.)**

**Week of December 15** – Stardust Week (1/3 gold points) Extra MPs, \$1 extra

**Dec 25 (Thursday) – no game, Christmas**

*Thank you for your support of CCBC! Michael Kruley*

# Lamorinda Bridge Club



## Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC), December 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: December 20, 2025, providing there will be enough teams signing up to hold the game..**

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 will resume on January 12. January 12, at \$20 per session. You may opt for any or all of the subjects you wish to attend. The dates and topics will be posted on the Lamorinda Bridge Club Website for Unit 499.**

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

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

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

