

# eDeclarer

September 2019

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



Hello Unit 499!

The dog days of summer are past, and we enter the ever lovely time of "Indian Summer" in the Bay Area. A poignant warmth of yellow/orange color and shade with the overcast effect of the sun lower on the horizon, outlining the days of bright color for this remarkable time. Blazing color is completely ensconced before the death of the leaves in the late fall.

This month presents the tunnel tournament with Unit 502 of Oakland. The Tunnel Tourney will be held at Contra Costa Bridge Center on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 9:30am, for a two-session event with lunch included for a fee of \$15 for both sessions and lunch. Reservations are required, and can be acquired by contacting Andy Fine (afine963@aol.com). This event is always a fun and challenging undertaking with our competitors in Unit 502. Come and enjoy a fun day of bridge and camaraderie. The club with the most winners gets to take home the plaque for a year until the next tournament.

Sunday, October 6, 2019 will be the NAP Finals at Contra Costa Bridge Center. Game time start is 1pm for qualified participants.

September is a time for new beginnings left over from our childhood days, school, new projects, etc. Enjoy your bridge game with your favorite partners and dedicate yourselves to new learning experiences in the ever-evolving game of duplicate bridge.

Lyn Sacco

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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to [jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto:jkeilin@pacbell.net)

Volume XCVI

September 2019

***Deadline for October is September 18***

## ...from the Editor

The Santa Clara Regional is behind us. I hope those of you who attended brought back lots of red and gold points. Next up, locally is our Sectional on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon. Get a partner or team, arrange a carpool and go! Be sure to put it on your calendar right now! Check out the flyer in this issue.

Following that is the Nationals in San Francisco. If you've never experienced a National, be sure to attend this one. There's so much going on, you'll love it! You might also think about volunteering, as our local units are responsible for making this a great tournament.

Judy Keilin

Editor



To submit a letter to the editor,  
send it to Judy Keilin at  
[jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto:jkeilin@pacbell.net)

Mary Krouse, Publisher

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

Emily Beaty

Bari Mantel

Patti St. Denis

### New Club Masters

June Aguilera

Kathy Bertonneau

Elizabeth Majchrzak

### New Sectional Masters

Art Gronner

Gloria McBeth

### New Regional Masters

Lilah Cerf

Max Hinkle

Jamie Ney

Skip Seroy

### New NABC Masters

Larry Lange

Michael Sabol

## NEW MEMBERS

June Bechtel

Sue Cannon

Daisy Janssen

Jenifer Lary

William Quarles

David Sherr

Eileen Short

Judy Wallace

Ray Bauer

David Cohen

Art Gronner

Sharon Hyde

Ed Becker

Rich Gain

Bruce Mitchener

Let's greet these new members  
and welcome them when you meet

# Diablo Valley Unit 499

## Fall Sectional



**November 9 – 10, 2019**

**Dougherty Valley High School**

**10550 Albion Rd. San Ramon, CA 94582**

Presented by Diablo Valley Unit 499 (<http://diablovalleybridge.com>)

**Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

### 10:00 AM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 1)  
(0-4000/4000+)

Two Session 0-2500 Mid-Flight Pairs (session 1)  
(0-1500/1500-2500)

Single Session Stratified Pairs\*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)

499er (0-100/100-300/300-500)

99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

### 2:30 PM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 2)  
(0-4000/4000+)

Two Session 0-2500 Mid-Flight Pairs (session 2)  
(0-1500/1500-2500)

Single Session Stratified Pairs\*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)

499er (0-100/100-300/300-500)

99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

\* Games and strats will be adjusted based on attendance.

**Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**NEW** 10:00 & 2:30 499er Single Session Stratified Pairs

**NEW** 10:00 & 2:30 Single Session Stratified Open Pairs

10:00 AM & TBD: Bracketed Swiss Teams. Brackets posted at tournament. Teams must play both sessions. 7 rounds/7 boards (lowest bracket plays 7 rounds/6 boards). 20 VP Scale for all brackets. Brackets based on team masterpoint average. Teams may elect to play in top bracket.

**Table fees:** \$12 per session (lapsed ACBL members \$16); non-ACBL members must join on a temporary basis to play.

**Tournament Director:** Lynn Yokel. ACBL Sanction #:1911036

**Tournament Chair:** Anne Hollingsworth @ (925) 899-7543 or [scootcat@pacbell.net](mailto:scootcat@pacbell.net)

**Partnerships:** Please contact Anne Hollingsworth @ (925) 899-7543 or [scootcat@pacbell.net](mailto:scootcat@pacbell.net) for assistance. Please do not attend without a partner or teammates.

**Food:** Refreshments. Lunch for purchase on Saturday and Sunday

**Directions:**

- From Highway 680 exit at Bollinger Canyon Rd. Head east for 3.92 miles. At Albion Rd, turn left.
- From I-580, exit at Dougherty Rd S and head north on Dougherty Rd S; at Y in road, stay to the right to continue on Bollinger Canyon. From I-580 exit, distance is about 5.7 miles. At Albion Rd, turn right.

Go to the light at Arrowfield Way, and turn left into the school entrance. After turning into the school, look for the parking on your right under the solar panels.

# Special Opportunities for Mentoring

Mentors are needed to ensure that our new group of beginning bridge players continue to learn and grow and love the game of bridge as we more experienced players do.

To facilitate this learning process, there are three currently scheduled games at Contra Costa Bridge Club in Concord appropriate for newer players. We would like volunteer mentors to join us at one of these games:

Tuesday afternoon at 2pm for players with under 20 Masterpoints

Thursday afternoon at 2pm

Saturday morning at 9:30am

Volunteer to be a mentor and meet with your mentee at any of these games. You will receive up to six "free play" coupons to use for these partnerships.

Reap the rewards of sharing the game you love with new, eager-to-learn bridge novices. Although most mentoring partnerships at this level will not earn Masterpoints, the enthusiasm and appreciation from dedicated learners are personal rewards. Help us grow the membership in Unit 499 through this program.

Please contact Karen Corburn, Mentoring Chair, Unit 499 at [kscorburn@gmail.com](mailto:kscorburn@gmail.com) or 404-386-2731.

# LABOR OF LOVE

This month is the table-topper for good weather. Also, when we think of September, it's often associated with Labor Day. The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City. It spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was in full bloom, as many industrial centers in the country had parades and parties.

Labor, has many different meanings. My first reaction is childbirth. Yikes.

Labor is intense and painful, but the reward is so sweet! Hard labor stems from physical work. Bridge can also bring on a little labor too. When we have a difficult hand to bid, we labor over what, and how to respond. You may even get a tummy ache, with much less intensity of course. It can make you sweat, and create some anxiety too. *Gee, what a fun game!* Our addiction to bridge is actually extremely healthy for the mind. I'll bet everyone reading this column is also grateful for this wonderful, zealous, headache-pounding game. All you smart cookies can relate.

Seems fitting, that I also write for the Forum, and am now a contributor for e-Declarer. I write for several publications, but my favorite is Bridge. There's so much to talk about.

This is worth a second take--Keep it under wraps! When playing bridge, so much goes on at each table, and, personally, I don't want to hear it either. Okay, call me grumpy, but lots of noise is distracting for most players. AND, the big game-killer is the coughing. No matter the weather, it's time to tether, and when you feel the need to cough or sneeze--prepare. Don't turn your head away, and blow in your neighbor's face. I love sharing, but not colds, covered up by "Oh, I have allergies".

We all know that we'd do anything to play, so let's learn from my granddaughter, Isabella. "Nonie", she says, "Bend both arms and put your elbows together and ah-chew in there." I've been doing both for over fifty years, and she's going to tell me how? Yikes! However, Izzi is right. So let's all try it, and most will appreciate it. So sneeze or cough if you must, but keep it in your sleeve.

So don't fuss over much. Continue to play Bridge, as it is really, a Labor of Love.

Even when you don't scratch, you competed, tried to do your best, and showed up to play. Enjoy each day...



Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me...

September, 2019

	North	
	S AK32	
	H 9	
	D QJ8	
	C AQ1032	
West		East
S 987		S Q1064
H 62		H K
D 76532		D AK104
C 875		C KJ64
	South	
	S J5	
	H AQJ1087543	
	D 9	
	C 9	



This deal came up in a local club game. Every so often a hand comes up that is way different and even can be amusing. My partner opened 1C and my right hand opponent overcalled 1N. I am thinking wow, what should I do. We might have a slam in hearts, or we might take almost all of the tricks if I double. My suspicion is that they probably won't stay there and if they did and I led my club, would my partner know to win and lead a heart? Does he have a heart?

After thinking I just decided to bid 4 hearts. I am sure I can make this and I hope they cannot figure out what to save when I run all my hearts.

The opening lead was the 9 of spades (from a rare hand that has no card higher than a nine otherwise known as a Yarborough). When the dummy came down I was happy to see a heart there and after examining it I decided that there was one card I wanted my right hand opponent to have and I am asking for any of my readers to let me know what that card was before reading the end?

I won the spade and led my heart to the K and my A and then ran all but one of my hearts. I then led a spade to the dummy and trumped a spade. At this point, the dummy was the A and Q of clubs and my hand was the pair of minor suit 9's. My right hand opponent was squeezed and had to save either 2 clubs or 1 club and 1 diamond so I took the last two tricks.

Did you guess which card I wanted them to hold? It was the 10 of diamonds because if my left hand opponent had it, they could save it, and my squeeze wouldn't work, but then they wouldn't have had a Yarborough. For your information the odds of getting a Yarborough is 1,827 to 1.

Jerry Weitzner

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

# Improve Your Bridge Play

## IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

### BALANCING AFTER OPPONENT'S OPENING BID OF ONE OF A SUIT (Part 4 of 5)

Reference: Mike Lawrence, "The Complete Book on Balancing," 1981

#### Balancing with a Suit of Your Own at the One Level (Continued)

Holding two suits you usually bid your longer suit first—particularly if you intend to bid both suits. However, you may prefer a good 4-card suit over a weak 5-card suit if the 4-card suit is higher ranking than Opponent's suit, and you only intend to bid once because of minimum strength.

Reopening with a suit that is higher ranking than Opener's is safer than one that is lower ranking than Opener's. This is because RHO's strength (what little there is) is more likely to be in a lower ranking suit than Opener's. Otherwise, he may have been able to eke out a bid at the 1-level.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♦	Pass	Pass	???
♠Q8742	♥AQ107	♦A8	♣32



Bid 1♠. Your hand is good enough to rebid hearts if the opportunity presents itself.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♦	Pass	Pass	???
♠AK107	♥52	♦72	♣Q8763

Bid 1♠. Your hand is only good enough to make one call, so it's best to bid your best suit regardless of relative lengths. Also, bidding 2♣ gets you to the 2-level, a trick higher and is not as safe.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	???
♠AQ87	♥863	♦4	♣AK974

Bid 2♣. Your hand is strong enough to make two bids. Start with clubs to describe your hand.

#### Balancing with Two of a Lower Ranking Suit

A non-jump 2-level bid requires at least a decent 5-card suit (QJ9xx or better or any 6 card suit). You should have 10

useful HCP as a minimum. The more HCP you have, the more you can fudge on suit quality.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♠	Pass	Pass	???
♠K82	♥5	♦Q985	♣AK1087

Bid 2♣. Your suit is good with good defensive values which compensates for the unbid heart suit.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♠	Pass	Pass	???
♠87	♥J87654	♦A76	♣A7

Bid 2♥. While you have only 9 HCP, you have two defensive tricks and an extra heart.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	???
♠Q	♥Q107	♦QJ8	♣KJ7654

Pass. You have two wasted queens, a singleton in the unbid major and poor spots in clubs. If the opening bid had been 1♠, reopening with 2♣ would be acceptable.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	???
♠8654	♥53	♦KQJ97	♣K3

Bid 2♦. Your hand is a bit weak, but your suit is good. It will get Partner off to a good lead should the Opponents play the hand.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part. Resp.</u>		<u>You</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	???
♠Q862	♥A5	♦K4	♣Q10842

Bid 1♠. You don't have a "best" suit to bid. It is probably best to bid 1♠ since it is a level lower and is a "safer" suit than clubs. As a rule, if RHO is going to give you any trouble at all, it is usually in a lower ranking suit than Opener's.

# 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)

## Carol Griffin

And all year round there is: **Drop-in** bridge Thursdays from 10-noon for social supervised bridge and "**Newplicate**" (for those who are new to duplicate) on Tuesdays from 12:30-4pm All activities are at the new lovely location of Wilder Ranch (except for Newplicate), just 1/4 mile beyond Orinda exit off of Highway 24

Carol also offers a variety of classes at Lafayette Community Center on Mondays and at Wilder Ranch club house (thru Orinda Community center) on Thursdays. Please contact the appropriate community center for details or visit her website at: [carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com](http://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com)

**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.**



# Lamorinda Bridge Club

Our Wednesday and Saturday games run 10am to about 2pm with snacks and beverages included. Following Open Game Board Play we offer a light potluck lunch with an opportunity to discuss the hands using hand records. Contributions of snacks and shared food dishes are welcome. We host a Swiss Team Game on the third Saturday of the month, and a pair game on the Saturday of STaC Week. We are now holding Limited Pair Games (less than 299 master points) on the second and fourth Fridays (no lunch following the Friday games).

Reservations are required in advance for all games. If we have enough notice we can usually arrange for partnerships. You may reserve games in advance when you know your schedule.

Our neighbor directly across the street at 184 Corliss has requested that we leave the equivalent of at least three parking spaces open in front of their home at all times. We also ask that you not park directly in front of any of our neighbors' mail boxes, or too close to disposal containers left at the curb for pick-up that day. We learned recently that the mailman refused to deliver a neighbor's mail due to a car parked blocking the mailbox. **Please help us be good neighbors!**

Congratulations to some of our first place players in Sections A, B or C since the last Newsletter:

Debby & Wayne Rechnitz, Joan Tasker & Sue McCaffrey, Tom & Gayle Hester, Daisy Lennon & Sandi Cummings (twice), David & Judy Niver (twice), Max Hinkle & Bill Schultz, Carol Penskar & Randy Corr, Leslie Wagstaff & Philippa Erlank, Larry Lange & Judy Murphy, Malcolm Mendelson & Jacob Rosenberg, Dennis & Renee Ross, Darrell Fung & Jerry Weitzner (twice), Winnie Jasper & Joyce Ellenberg, Al & Felicity Warner, Pat Torres & David Slaby, Max Hinkle & Ed Marlovits, Susan Schlicht & Greta Westeson, Melinda Hall & Jamie Ney, and Bob Alfandary & Sue Nurock.

## Upcoming Schedule:

### September 2019

Wed. 9/4 Regular Pair Game \$10

Wed. 9/11 Regular Pair Game \$10

Fri. 9/13 International Fund 299er Pair Game \$10

Wed. 9/18 Unit Pair Game \$10

Sat. 9/21 Club Championship Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 9/25 International Fund Pair Game \$10

Fri. 9/27 International Fund 299er Pair Game \$10

### October 2019

Wed. 10/2 Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Pair Game \$10

Wed. 10/9 Regular Pair Game \$10

Fri. 10/11 Jane Johnson Club Appreciation 299er Pair Game \$10

Wed. 10/16 Club Membership Pair Game \$10

Sat. 10/19 Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 10/23 Club Championship Pair Game \$10

Fri. 10/25 NO GAME

Wed. 10/30 Regular Pair Game \$10

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

[Winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:Winnie@wjasper.com); 925-376-1125

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

## Lamorinda Bridge Club

The location is our home:

183 Corliss Drive , Moraga 94556

(on the corner of Corliss and Crossbrook Drives at the stop sign)

On-street parking

[925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125)

Reservations required:

Winnie: [Winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:Winnie@wjasper.com) or [925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125) (home)

Jerry: [925-766-5228](tel:925-766-5228) (cell)



# The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

The Moraga Country Club duplicate bridge game continues to be held each Tuesday night at 7pm. Reservations are required with [dsgeary@comcast.net](mailto:dsgeary@comcast.net). ACBL Masterpoints and hand records. Fee is only \$3.

7/23 6 tables  
1<sup>st</sup> Colleen & David Geary  
2<sup>nd</sup> Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nancy & Lew Voils

7/20 6 tables  
1<sup>st</sup> Andrea & Dan Green  
2<sup>nd</sup> Misook Jung & Dan Kroll  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nancy & Lew Voils

8/6 5 tables  
1<sup>st</sup> Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain  
2<sup>nd</sup> Art Evans & Bill Lemaire  
3<sup>rd</sup> Judy & David Niver

8/13  
1<sup>st</sup> Art Donaldson & David Geary  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Eltringham & Marj Russell  
3<sup>rd</sup> (tie) Diana Lowell & Doug Handler  
3<sup>rd</sup> (tie) Nancy & Lew Voils

Regards,  
David Geary



## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club

Rossmoor

September 2-7 will be Club Championship Week.

September 4 will be IMP pairs scoring.

September 9-14 will be International Fund Charity Week.

NO GAMES on September 20 and 21. (Flea Market in the Oak Room)

September 22 will be a Unit Game at Rossmoor. Lunch at noon followed by play at 1pm. There will be 299er and open sections.

All games are held in the Oak Room at the Gateway Center.

