

eDeclarer

October 2019

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Hello Unit 499!

I am amazed at the continual turn of seasons. Revelation upon revelation! All the more succinct because of the winding down of days as the fall continues to creep towards winter ever so subtly. The evening air with the brisk cold slap of forgotten remembrances to imbue the senses of memory is a shock the first time experienced!

October finds us preparing for the Unit 499 Fall Sectional to be held at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon on November 9th and 10th. Saturday and Sunday play present the same challenges as in other tournaments.

San Francisco National NABC – the Fall North American Bridge Championship (ACBL's national tournament) will take place in San Francisco from Nov 28 – December 8 at the Marriott Marquis in downtown San Francisco. Hotel reservations are open.

Since our District 21 is the host District, we are in need of volunteers to help with various desks at the Nationals (registration, partnership, prizes and I/N). Volunteers will get a voucher for a free play. To volunteer, just follow this link and pick your preferred date and time slot. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b45a8af2fa7f49-nabc>. If the link doesn't work for you, try contacting Katherine Loh at ladysanguine@gmail.com for signup help.

NAP – Unit Final – The North American Pairs (NAP) Unit Final will take place on Sunday, Oct 6 at CCBC. It is a one-session event at 1pm.

The North American Pairs event has been a major ACBL pair championship since 1979 and was originally known as the Grand National Pairs. This grassroots event is staged in qualifying rounds at the club, unit and district levels. It culminates in a final held in conjunction with the Fall NABC (this year in San Francisco, CA).

The contest is run as a flighted event:

Flight A: Open Flight B: 0-2500 masterpoints as of June 2019 masterpoint cycle, and Flight C: 0-500 masterpoints. Non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints at the 2019 masterpoint cycle

Please check your June Bridge Bulletin for your masterpoint total.

Players must qualify at the club level to be eligible to enter a unit-level qualifying game, and must qualify at the unit level in order to advance to the District finals.

A player may play in only one unit-level qualifying game in any unit in the district. Players may partner with any other qualified player – they do not have to partner with the player they qualified with at the club level.

Partial Gold points awarded those who place.

Get out there and play bridge, have fun!

Lyn Sacco



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Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@pacbell.net

Volume *XCVII*

October 2019

Deadline for November is October 16

...from the Editor

There is a wealth of information in this issue!

Read about the upcoming Nationals, and how you can volunteer.

Our Sectional is on the calendar for November.

We lost another Unit 499 member. Many of you knew Hedy Wee. Read the lovely tribute written by her family.

Check out the new game schedule at CCBC.

Lisa Assoni comments on married couples as bridge partners. Missing from that list is your editor and her husband. Maybe there are no words to describe that partnership! ☹️.

Read about Michael Gosnell's great accomplishment.

Check all that out and more!

Judy Keilin

Editor



To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at
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



Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

New Club Masters

Edith Chiang
Sharon Hyde
Bari Mantel
David Niger
Judy Niger

New Regional Masters

David Cottam
Patricia Torres

New NABC Masters

Dan Greenberg

New Silver Life Masters

Jackie Henley
Tricia O'Connor

New Gold Life Masters

Elizabeth Golanco

New Grand Life Masters

Ed Nagy

NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Chang
Sam Cheng
Linda Hellman
Richard Lutz
Wendy Prufer
Stuart Rowe
Terri Rowe

*Let's greet these new members
and welcome them when you meet
them at the tables.*

Congratulations to Michael Gosnell, who raised over \$9,000 for Juvenile Arthritis cycling from San Francisco to Los Angeles recently (525 miles over 8 days) in the California Classic Bike Ride down the coast. Way to go, Michael!



IN MEMORIAM



Hedy Wee, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and bon vivant, died on August 30, 2019, after a short illness. Born in Wuxi, China, on March 6, 1932, she lived a comfortable life (her father was a newspaper editor) until she and her family moved to Taiwan in 1949 to escape China's communist revolution. In 1950, Hedy sailed on the Mathew Luckenbach steamship, landing in Portland, OR, to attend Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD. She later transferred to and graduated from the College of Puget Sound (now the University of Puget Sound, WA), where she studied business and English literature on a full scholarship.

Hedy married William Wee in Tacoma, WA, in the early 1950s. The two first met in Taiwan, where their families lived near each other, and re-connected in America. Hedy and Bill settled in Walnut Creek in 1956 and founded and built Continental Merchandising, a successful company that imported and sold sewing products to fabric and craft stores nationwide. Hedy was vice president and Bill was president.

Hedy loved tennis - she was one of the original members of Round Hill Country Club in Alamo -- as well as swing dance and bridge, where she achieved the level of Ruby Life Master. Lake Tahoe was one of her favorite places, and she spent many summers at the Tahoe Racket Club and loved to ski in Squaw Valley. She also played the piano and was a talented artist.

Hedy leaves behind three sisters; two sons, William Wee (Eileen) and Eric Wee (Rhea); a daughter, Elizabeth McAlpine; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Hedy was the life of every party and a dear friend to many. As her son, Billy, says, "When they made my mom, they broke the mold."

Her family will host a Celebration-of-Life event for Hedy on Sunday, October 20 at the Round Hill Country Club. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to rhea.borja@gmail.com.

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 9th

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 10th

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

Partnerships: Please contact Anne Hollingsworth @ (925) 899-7543 or 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 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 from 2 to 5pm

Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12pm

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 or 404-386-2731.

PRO-AM GAME

Unit 499 Pro-Am Bridge Event

On September 7, the semi-annual Pro-Am Bridge Game was hosted at Contra Costa Bridge Center. It was another very successful and fun event – with a full house of twenty tables.

Each Am (with less than 300 MP's) was matched with a Pro (with more than 300 MP's) - ahead of the event. There were great opportunities for learning – and for getting to know other players in our wonderful bridge community.

Top pairs overall were:

1 - Ed Nagy / Forrest Bottomley

2/3 - Irwin Lichtblau / Andy Shockley

2/3 - Frank Concepcion / Ed Lichtig

4 - Jack Beers / Mark Kogan

5 - Grant Robinson / Lyn Sacco

6 - Mark Marty / Veronica Berlin

The next Pro-Am will be held in February or March of 2020. Please contact Mark Humphrey at markhumphrey@comcast.net if you are a new player and would like to be added to the invitation list.

Mark Humphrey

PLAY TOGETHER, STAY TOGETHER

I just returned home from another wonderful Pro-Am Game. You all know, that's when volunteers who are Life Masters, step up to the plate, and play with Non-Life Masters. It originated in memory of Ken White, a super bridge player, and a great friend to many.

Well, you betcha, Lynne and Mark Humphrey, once again hosted this treasured event. Lynne makes the best egg and sausage casseroles, and Mark works many weeks shuffling around folks to help make great partnerships. Mark - his name is mentioned very often in my column, and for very good reason - is one of the founding fathers of CCBC, and is a man who gets the job done!

Lynne, and Mark are a dynamic duo. Our thanks and praise goes to both of you. You're truly appreciated by all our members, and we're grateful for your enthusiasm, and love for the game and us. Kudos! Also a special thank you to all of the players who generously loaded the tables with some dig-in foods. My partner was Valerie Peterson. We had a great time, and her smile was contagious. I felt relaxed, until I messed up the bidding, or the play of the hand, OR DOUBLED someone who has a zillion Masterpoints. Anyway, thanks for being my partner, and thanks to all of the Life Masters who shared their time and talent with others.

I just can't believe how many married couples play together, and are part of Unit 499. Just a mention of some of the twosomes where "love conquers all", even at the bridge table:

Mike and Linda Bandler, (Awesome), Shelley and Jon Bagg, (Nice), Rosalind and Gerry Cunha, (Sweet.), Dan and Linda Friedman, (Wise), Michael and Julia Gosnell, (Smart), Dan and Faith Greenberg, (Faithful), Patti and Mark Kogan, (Love a Challenge), Heidi and Michael Lippitt, (Dedicated), Arlene and Benny Mahlberg, (Winners), Sheryl and Ed Nagy, (Sharp), Nancy and Norman Price, (Compatible), Debbie and Wayne Rechnitz, (Helper Mates), Barbara and Jerry Waitrovich, (Competitive). Quite a list! Congratulations to all!



Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook

Play a Hand with Me

Jerry Weitzner Play A Hand With Me...

October, 2019

	North	
	S 7	
	H A8642	
	D A76	
	C AQ63	
West		East
S Q10854		S KJ3
H J953		H KQ10
D J		D 42
C K98		C J10542
	South	
	S A962	
	H 7	
	D KQ109853	
	C 7	



This deal came up in a KO match at the Regional in Santa Clara and features Linda Bandler in the bidding.

I opened 1D and she bid 1H. I bid 2D and she bid 3C and I bid 3D. Linda decided that I was showing 7 diamonds and was not interested in 3N so she bid 4D (which we play as minorwood). I responded 5C which showed the A of spades, the K and Q of diamonds so she put me in 6D.

The opening lead was the 5 of spades which I won with the A and ruffed a spade in the dummy. I then played the A of clubs and ruffed a club in my hand and led a diamond to the A noting the drop of the J.

At this point I knew I was making my contract so I ruffed another club to my hand and the K dropped. I ruffed another spade in the dummy and played the Q of clubs discarding my last spade and claimed making 7.

My left hand opponent asked me why I didn't bid 3N and I told him that my hand was too suit oriented and that the A of spades is only 1 stopper which is better for playing in a suit. I gave this hand to several experts and most agreed with the way Linda bid it, a couple suggested a jump to 3S after my 2D showing diamond support and a singleton spade which works as well. The opponents at the other table got to 3N and made 4 for a loss of 10 imps as well as that match. The desire to play 3N with all these controls and a very long suit is rather short sighted.

This was a 23 HCP slam that can be seen in the bidding. Thanks Linda.

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 5)

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

Balancing with a Jump to Two of a Higher Ranking Suit or Three of a Lower Ranking Suit

Example: <u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Pass	Pass	2♥

Example: <u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Pass	Pass	3♥

These auctions are NOT weak jump overcalls. They show a hand of at least opening bid strength with a good 6 or 7 card suit.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Pass	Pass	???
♠AKQ874	♥KQ3	♦72	♣63

Bid 2♠. This is a typical example.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Pass	Pass	???
♠J109842	5	♦A2	♣AKJ7

Bid 2♠. You'd like better spades, but your hand has great shape and at least the suit is solid.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Pass	Pass	???
♠A4	♥QJ109753	♦4	♣A97

Bid 2♥. The 7th heart makes up for less high card strength.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	???
♠Q7	♥64	♦AJ8	♣AKJ983

Bid 3♣. If the jump is into a minor, it requires a very good 6 or 7-card suit since the emphasis is in finding a 3NT contract. This is a typical call with interest in 3NT.



<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♠	Pass	Pass	???
♠75	♥QJ98763	♦AQ	♣A3

Bid 3♥. Since the suit is a major, your suit doesn't have to be as good. You are less interested in notrump than if the long suit were a minor

Balancing with a Jump to Three of a Higher Ranking Suit

Example: <u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Pass	Pass	3♥

This is a good preemptive bid in which you expect to make the contract opposite a random 10 HCP.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♦	Pass	Pass	???
♠KJ108764	♥3	♦AJ8	♣52

Bid 3♠. A normal sound preempt—not trash.

Balancing with a Jump to Two Notrump

Example: <u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	2NT

This is NOT THE UNUSUAL NOTRUMP. It shows a balanced hand with 18 to 20 HCP and a stopper in Opener's suit.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♠	Pass	Pass	???
♠Q86	♥A2	♦AKJ107	♣AJ7

Bid 2NT. Describe your strength and distribution. If you double, you don't want to hear hearts from Partner.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	???
♠AQ2	♥1064	♦AK107	♣AK4

Double. You shouldn't bid 2NT without a heart stopper. After Partner's response you can cue bid if you want to try for game.

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

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

Carol T Griffin

400 Beacon Ridge Lane

Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Tel 925 933 3535

Email: nobidd45@gmail.com

Web Site: carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com

If this is an emergency please call as I do not necessarily look at my email every day.



CONTRA COSTA BRIDGE CENTER

CONTRA COSTA BRIDGE CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW SCHEDULE

(Effective October 1, 2019)

Monday

10am - Open; lesson at 9:30am

Tuesday

10am - 749 (New) MP Limit; Ravi Bhalla directs; lesson at 9:30am.

9:30am - SIRS game - Open; 1st Tuesday of each month, by invitation only

2pm - 19 MP Limit; Deb Rechnitz directs; no partner necessary, mini-lesson at 1:40pm

Wednesday

9:30am - 499 MP Limit; Larry Miller directs (Note new starting time.)

12:30pm - Open (Note new starting time.)

Thursday

9:30am - 999 MP Limit

2pm - 99 MP Limit; Mike Kruley directs; mini-lesson at 1:45pm

Friday

10am - Open

Saturday

9:30am - 199 MP Limit; mini-lesson at 9:15am

Note : All games are stratified

Best regards,

Grant Robinson



ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

On Thursday, October 10, there will be a Unit Game at Rossmoor at 7pm.

October 14-19 will be a Club Appreciation Week.

Thursday, October 17, will be an IMP Pairs game at 7pm.

There will be no games at Rossmoor November 1 and 2.

Kit Miller



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:

Max Hinkle & Ed Marlovits (three times), Jerry Weitzner & Darrell Fung, Daisy Lennon & Sandi Cummings (twice), David Snyder & Winnie Jasper (twice), Pam Docherty & Judy Peak (twice), Mike Whitaker & Richard DeVoe, Bob & Annette Horwitz (twice), Jerry Weitzner & Mike Bandler, Dennis & Renee Ross, Al & Felicity Warner, Judy Murphy & Larry Lange, Joyce Ellenberg & Martha Ann Wishnev, Tom & Gayle Hester (twice), Mike Whitaker & Bill Schultz, Harry Fish & Conrad Robertson, Carol Penskar & Randy Corr, Melinda Hall & Jamie Ney, Dick Halliday & Nan Hornberger, Josh Fendel & Darrell Fung, Eileen Pleticha & Beth Majchrzak, and Linda Ingham & Mary Ellen Evenson.

Upcoming Schedule

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 Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Pair Game \$10

November 2019

Only one game this month:

Wed. 11/27 Food Bank Charity Pair Game \$11

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

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 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 is each Tuesday night at 7pm. Reservations are required with David Geary at dsgeary@comcast.net. ACBL Master Points. Hand records. \$3 per person.

August 20th – 6 tables

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Colleen & David Geary
- 3 – Diana Lowell & Doug Handler

August 27th – 7 tables

North – South

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Maxine Winer & Scott Bonomi
- 3 – Deb & Wayne Rechnitz

East-West

- 1 – Carol Smith & David Cartwright
- 2 – Barbara McKay & Irwin Lichtblau
- 3 – Anne Hetland & Jackie Birdsong



September 3rd – 4 tables

- 1 – Deb & Wayne Rechnitz
- 2 – Diana Lowell & Doug Handler
- 3 – Ashok Chakradeo & Scott Bonomi

September 10th – 3 tables

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Mary-Jill Clemens & Bill LeMaire
- 3 – Diana Lowell & Doug Handler

September 17th – 5 tables

- 1 – Deb & Wayne Rechnitz
- 2 – Colleen & David Geary
- 3 – Diana Lowell & Doug Handler

Regards, David Geary