

## President's Message



Hello Unit 499!

Heat on top of isolation, it doesn't get much better than this. Just add patience as a means of coping, and you have a bridge player!

Not much new in the arena of bridge. I continue to play on bridge base online, and find it to be a very satisfying passage of time. Partners and opponents are cheerful and willing to put in the time and energy to ensure a smooth game. There are lots of choices of games to participate in. Lots of opportunities for master point advancement. One just has to be willing to put in the time and engage in the thought process.

District 21 is in running for District Director. The candidates are Jackie Zayac and Stu Goodgold. Results will be announced [on September 16, 2020](#). Good luck, Jackie!

Netflix and cooking videos are the new norm for me with time left over to muse the offerings and ingredients. Isn't it amazing that so many chefs can come up with new ideas for flavor sensations to delight the palate? There are quite a variety of presentations with loads of ideas for spicing up the menu. Take a look if you want to have some creative cooking ideas incorporated into your menu.

Stay cool in the heat, and continue to bid those slams!

Lyn Sacco

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### Unit 499 eDeclarer

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

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

Mary Krouse, Publisher



## ...from the Editor

### FROM THE EDITOR

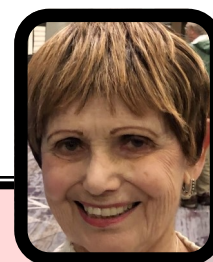
I want to thank Sue Eastman and Andy Fine for contributing their touching tributes to two recently deceased fellow bridge players.

I also want to wish Jackie Zayac good luck in her upcoming election for District 21 Director. Only unit board members are permitted to vote, so if you know any of these people in other units, put in a good word for Jackie. There's no one who works harder for our bridge players!

In her President's Message, Lyn mentioned that she's broadened her culinary expertise during the pandemic. Perhaps some of you might like to share some of your new recipes here in eDeclarer. I know – it's not bridge-related, but there's not much bridge to write about these days, and we might all enjoy a new creative outlet. Watch for next month's deadline reminder, and send me your most successful attempts.

See you on BBO!

Judy Keilin, Editor



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 (5)

Ray Bland  
Betty Brandell  
Steve Dinning  
Sydney Dodds  
Karen Siefert

### NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Christine Foley

### NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

David Freimuth  
David Niver  
Roberta Polson  
Coralie Wilkes

### NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

Jim Commons  
Irving Googins  
Editor Lichtig

### NEW LIFE MASTERS (300/500)

Nancy Thomas

### NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS (1000)

Richard Michelson

### NEW RUBY LIFE MASTERS (1500)

Mike Kruley

### NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS (2500)

Dan Rubinfeld

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these folks when you  
"meet" them online.

Ethan Bortman  
Corinne Doyle  
Mike Doyle  
Myrna Murray  
Richard Nusser  
Barbara Samuels  
Joe Sbranti  
Ellin Swanback

# IN MEMORIAM

## JOAN WATSON

Joan Watson, a long-time member of our local bridge club in its Walnut Creek and Concord days, recently passed away at the impressive age of ninety-nine. Her passing makes her another sad addition to the list of friends and fellow bridge players who have gone to that great bridge table in the sky.

Joan was a lovely lady. I never knew her outside of the bridge club, but we'd often socialize at the bridge table, waiting for the next round to start. Joan was living proof that one doesn't have to be a close friend of someone to enjoy their company at the card table.

Joan was originally a midwestern girl from Illinois. She and Art, her husband of fifty-three years, moved to California in 1946. They traveled a great deal, and had a very happy marriage. Professionally, Joan was an Educational Psychologist and Family Therapist, practicing in schools in the Diablo Valley area, and in private practice, at which she delighted in helping area children through rough patches in their lives.

A point the club's many Democrats will be glad to know: She once told me, with a big smile on her face, that "I enjoy playing bridge against you, but I don't like your politics." So drink a glass of wine to a political soulmate of many of you, whether you knew it or not!!

Andy Fine



# NORA ROSENBERG



Nora Rosenberg

Nora was one of my favorite my bridge partners. Not only was she a good player, she also was a joy to play with. My most vivid memory was after we finished one duplicate game and she said, "Sue, it's not that bad".

At her Rossmoor going-away party, I noticed her tears. She didn't want to leave and I didn't want her to leave. Everyone there seemed to feel the same way. What a great impression she made on all who knew her!

Nora stopped playing duplicate, yet continued in a once-a-month Friday social game in Rossmoor. Nora loved to eat, and she loved bridge. I went to her last social game and kibitzed her that day. I wasn't needed as a substitute player although I was allowed to go and see Nora one last time. I ran back and forth to the food table and filled up her ever-empty plate. She ate every bite. Nora won that day by scoring higher than the other seven players.

That game wasn't my last with Nora. Instead, a group of us traveled up north to visit in the assisted-care home where she resided. We always went with three players, bidding boxes, and two decks of cards. Of course we ate at a bakery cafe within walking distance of the facility. Nora was delighted. She loved that bakery. Then we returned and played many hands of bridge. I enjoyed those times just as much as Nora seemed to.

I'll miss that great person. I was so honored to know her and will remember her and those words forever..."Sue, it's not that bad."

Sue Eastman

# Some interesting facts and observations about "Playing cards"

Did you know that the Traditional Deck of the Playing Cards are a strikingly coherent form of a Calendar?

There are 52 weeks in the year and so are 52 Playing Cards in a Deck.

There are 13 weeks in each Season and thus there are 13 cards in each suit.

There are 4 Seasons in a Year and 4 Suits in the Deck.

There are 12 Months in a Year so there are 12 Court Cards (Those with faces namely Jack, Queen King in each suit)

The Red Cards represent the Day, while the Black Cards represent the Night. If you let Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and Kings = 13, then add up all the sums of  $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 13 = 91$ . Multiply this by 4, for the 4 Suits, therefore  $91 \times 4 = 364$ , Add 1 that is the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365 being the Days in a Year?

Is that a mere coincidence or a greater intelligence?

Of interest is the sum of the letters in all the names of the cards; eg :

add up the letters in "one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King" = 52!

The Spades indicate plowing/ working.

The Hearts indicates Love thy crops.

The Clubs indicates flourishing and growth.

The Diamonds indicate reaping Wealth.

Also, in some card games, 2 Jokers are used. Indicating the Leap year.

There is a deeper Philosophy than just merely a Game of Playing Cards.

The Mathematical perfection is mind-blowing.

Lilah Newton

## MIKE'S ADVICE

Recently I was playing in a virtual game at the Oakland East Bay Club.

There was an auction that started on my left with 2NT. The final contract was 3NT, making four. It turned out the 2NT opener had a [4-4-1-4](#) hand with a stiff 7 of Diamonds. The partner luckily could stop Diamonds, but the defense becomes harder. Anyhow, when the hand was over we, of course, could look at all the cards. Moments after our obvious shock the Director, Betty, adjusted the board because of the "illegal" bid to average plus for us.

The bottom line is: don't make this type of illegal bid, and if someone does it against you, be sure to call the director.

Mike Bandler

# Dicey Times

## SEPTEMBER'S HERE

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. *Wow, what a difference 6 months can make!*

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 shown through our online playing.

It's 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.

I really can't compile the results from all the games, and just keep track of my own. I realize you all want to get top boards, but the competition is tough, and we really have to concentrate. Well, I didn't do that the last time I played. Right in the middle of playing, I got a text from our electrician that he's coming over in fifteen minutes. He was scheduled to arrive [at 12:15](#), and the bridge game would be completed. This distraction caused me to not evaluate my hands properly, and assess others. Yikes! SO may we all learn a bridge lesson: don't play if you're Out of Focus.

So what are you all doing besides playing online bridge? Go to the grocery store, right? When I go into the market, I repeatedly hear a voice over the loudspeaker telling me how to walk, cover my face, be polite, etc. I usually salute.

I also like to laugh-especially now. So how about a joke!!!

This man and women are at home in the bedroom. Somehow burglars broke into, their room and tied them up. The thieves started ransacking the house, and the man was screaming, "Please let her go, please". He was begging. He even said "If you do, I'll give you the keys to my Mercedes, and a pair of diamond earrings." The burglar responded, "You must really love your wife". The man said over and over, "I do, I do, and she'll be home in fifteen minutes!"

So turn on TV, and search for comedies and great movies, seasoned with good-healthy food. You'll feel better, I promise.

Ciao Bella,

Lisa Assoni "The ShortCut Cook"



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me....

September, 2020

North	
S	J6
H	K10952
D	J72
C	K105
West	East
S	974
H	Q87
D	6
C	AQJ983
South	
S	KQ10532
H	A4
D	Q10984
C	_____



This is the last deal of a recent club game on BBO.

The bidding starting with W and proceeded as follows:

P P 1D 1S

2C P P 2S

P P 3C 3D

P 3S P P

P

The opening lead was the 6 of diamonds and the defense started with winning the A and then the K, West discarded the 9 of clubs. E then led the 3 of diamonds for W to ruff and W tried to cash the A of clubs. I ruffed that and worried that there was still another diamond ruff possible so I led the 10 spades and E won with the A and did lead his last diamond W ruffing with the 9 and I over ruffed with the J and claimed.

Now this looks like a very easy hand, but being the last board the system allows you to view others playing at this time and I actually was able to see 3 other tables in the same contract. What drew my attention to this was that at all of those tables the defense for the first 4 plays was exactly the same as my table but all of the other declarers trumped the A of clubs and led a spade to the J and now when a diamond came back, W would score the 9 of spades. One of those declarers actually has over 8,000 masterpoints so I was quite surprised he didn't see that danger.

Trump management is so very important.

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



# Improve Your Bridge Play

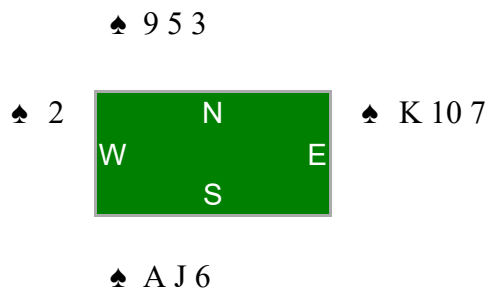


## IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

*By David Terris*

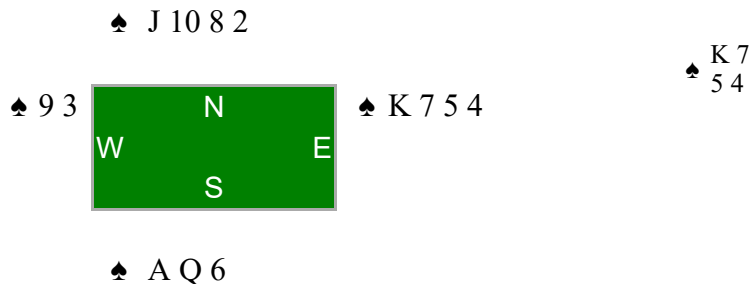
### WHEN NOT TO PLAY "THIRD HAND HIGH"

When Partner leads a suit in which he is probably under leading an honor, you usually will play your high honor, if you have one, in order to promote a trick for Partner. For example,



Against a heart contract, West's lead of the deuce indicates he may be leading from the Q♠. So you play the K♠, "third hand high," to force Declarer's A♠ and set up Partner's Q♠ if he has it.

Now consider this layout.



West's 9♠ lead is obviously not low from an honor, so Declarer must have the AQ♠. Dummy plays the J♠. If you now play the K♠, Declarer will get all four tricks in the suit, whereas if you duck, Declarer can only get three tricks. It is wrong here to play third hand high.

So when should you not play third hand high? The rule is very simple.

*Rule: When Partner's lead shows he has no honor in the suit, and you have only one high honor, do not play third hand high.*

In the following examples, assume that your side is leading a side suit against Declarer's trump contract.

	Partner Leads	Dummy	Dummy Plays	You Hold	Play High?	Why?
1 .	4	8652	2	K103	Yes	Partner is probably leading from an honor.
2 .	9	743	3	KQ65	Yes	Partner has no honor, but you have 2 honors.
3 .	8	QJ6	Q	K1075	No	Partner has no honor. You have only 1 honor; Declarer has the ace.
4 .	8	J1095	J	Q63	No	Partner has no honor. Playing Q sets up the suit.
5 .	9	Q1086	10	K754	No	Declarer has the AJ.
6 .	7	KJ109	J	Q8532	No	Declarer has the ace.

# 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)

*Until further notice all bridge clubs in Unit 499 are closed due to the coronavirus. Stay home, stay safe! Visit our website for information.*

*Also visit [ACBL.org](http://ACBL.org) to find information about on line classes and places to play.*

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor



Many players are enjoying online bridge games.

Classes: Michael Gosnell is organizing intermediate online classes for Rossmoor players who have expressed an interest.

Kit Miller

## Contra Costa Bridge Center

Regular schedule during **Virtual Vacation** tournament, [August 27–30](#)

**Labor Day Event**, [Monday, September 7](#)

**Club Championship Week**, [September 21–27](#)

*More masterpoints!* Open games on Monday and Wednesday will receive credit for the concurrent limited games, roughly doubling the masterpoints.

*Robot pairs ineligible.* When we use a pair of robots to fill in, they will never place above a human pair.

*All games stratified.* Smaller games will be stratified.

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

### Online Game Schedule

Monday	<a href="#">9:50</a>	99er	\$5
Monday	<a href="#">10:00</a>	Open	\$5
Tuesday	<a href="#">10:00</a>	749er	\$5
Tuesday	<a href="#">10:10</a>	Open	\$5
Wednesday	<a href="#">9:50</a>	299er	\$5
Wednesday	<a href="#">10:00</a>	Open	\$5
Thursday	<a href="#">10:00</a>	999er	\$5
Friday	<a href="#">10:00</a>	Open	\$5
Friday	<a href="#">12:30</a>	499er	\$5
Saturday	<a href="#">10:00</a>	199er	\$5

Grant Robinson

# Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda Bridge Club is hosting bridge games online through Bridge Base Online. The game schedule is:

[Tuesday 7pm](#) Open Game \$5

[Wednesday 10am](#) Open Game \$5

[Thursday 3pm](#) Limited Game (299) \$5

[Thursday 3:15pm](#) Open Game \$5

[Friday 10am](#) Limited Game (499) \$5

[Saturday 10am](#) Open Game \$5

[Sunday 10am](#) Limited Game (299) \$5

[Sunday 10:15am](#) Open Game \$5

To participate you have to;

Join [BridgeBase.Com](#) (no charge)

List a User Name and Password

Enter your ACBL #

Buy BB\$ with a credit card, to play in the ACBL Virtual Games

The master points you will earn in regular tournaments will ultimately be increased by 50% over the normal Bridge Base Points once the results are posted to the ACBL Live for Clubs Website.

Jerry has started teaching a beginning bridge class and virtual seminars on specific topics using a platform which is a combination of Zoom Conferencing and an online program called Shark Bridge. Anyone interested in the list of topics/classes offered, please email or call for information.

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

[Jerry@wjasper.com](mailto:Jerry@wjasper.com), [Winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:Winnie@wjasper.com)

925-766-5228 (Jerry)

925-683-1908 (Winnie)

925-376-1125 (Home)

[183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556](#)

