

President's Message



When I was in Junior High School, 7th and 8th grade, I remember how my Grandfather would tell me how valuable school was. He would say 'the future of our nation is based upon bright, new people to energize our country.'

Our bridge clubs and our Unit are similar. The new bridge players that are taking lessons will be the source of new energy in our clubs and our Unit. All of us need to embrace and encourage the new players – both the 'social' bridge players and the more competitive players.

As we move into the holiday season, make a point to renew friendships and make new bridge-playing friends.

I want to give a shout out to Mark Humphrey. Mark has volunteered for the D21 Goodwill Committee (Unit 499 is part of District 21). Thank you, Mark. Your energy and thoughtfulness will be a benefit to the Goodwill Committee.

U499 Fall Sectional, Sat/Sun, 9/24-25. Very successful. On Sunday, I was surprised and excited to see many younger players from local clubs and the Palo Alto area playing in the Swiss event. Congrats to Anne Hollingsworth for an excellent tournament. Thank you to the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club and Addie Mattox, for providing the room on both Saturday and Sunday.

Tunnel Tournament, 10/23. Jackie Zayac is coordinating for our Unit.

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

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Congratulations to two of our favorite players! Jackie Zayac has been elected our Region 12 Director, and Mike Bandler has passed the 15,000 masterpoints milestone. Check out separate articles for details.

Another bridge friend has left us. Condolences to Lilah Newton for the loss of her husband, Paul – a lovely man who will be missed.

We're making progress on the reopening of the Brentwood game. Finding a venue is tough, but we may be close. Watch your Google Group notices for an announcement, hopefully soon.

See you at the tables!

Judy Keilin

Editor



Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

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Mary Krouse, Publisher

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

diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Christine Balaguer
Jane Salzfass
Perry Serafin

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

Herbert Bernstein
Kenneth Handy
Jana Logan
Cecilia Muaddi

NEW LIFE MASTERS (300/500)

Sidney Landman
Derek Southern

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500/750)

Sidney Landman

SPECIAL ACCOLADE

Mike Bandler just surpassed 15,000 masterpoints. Read Chris Pisarra's touching tribute to Mike elsewhere in this issue.



NEW MEMBERS

Barry Shain
Hassam Yatim
Paul Britton

Let's welcome these new members when you meet them online or at the table.

In Memoriam



Paul Edmund Newton was born Jan. 3, 1944, in Macon, GA. His parents were Lee and Lucille Durden Newton. He attended Lanier High School in Macon. He received his B.S. degree in Physics (Course VIII) from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1965 and his M.B.A. from the Sloan School of Management at MIT in 1967. After graduation he worked in Atlanta for Lockheed. He then moved to Dallas, TX, where he was a part of the LTV Aerospace Tech Staff. In Dallas he met his future wife Lilah Avinger. They married Sept. 25, 1971. They had two sons, Michael (1976) and David (1979).

Paul then worked for UCC (University Computing Company) which later became UCCEL where he was Executive VP of the Software Division. In 1987 he made a major career change by moving to the San Francisco Bay Area. The family settled in the city of Danville. He was the CEO of several computer software companies, the last being Boole & Babbage. After he retired in 1999 he became keenly interested in Neuroscience. He and his wife funded the Newton Chair in Neuroscience at MIT, an endowed professorship as well as the Newton Neuroscience Expendable Fund to support cutting edge research. He served on the MIT Corporation Visiting Committee for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences and the Dean of Science Advisory Council.

He became a bridge Life Master and he and his wife enjoyed traveling all over the U.S. to play in National Bridge Tournaments. He also enjoyed playing golf, hiking, playing the piano and skiing. He and Lilah loved their biennial hiking trips to Switzerland with friends as well as their travels to all parts of the globe. Paul was a huge sports fan and spent many hours cheering on his Bay Area teams.

Paul passed away Oct. 14, 2022. He had been battling Parkinson's disease and Lewy Body Dementia for a number of years. He was predeceased by a sister Judy Newton Orr. He is survived by his wife Lilah, sons Michael and David, daughter-in-law Monica, granddaughters Taylor and Emma, and three nephews Steve, Bill, and David Orr.

Those wishing to make memorial donations may contribute to the Newton Neuroscience Expendable Fund at MIT or to a charity of your choice. If donating to MIT please make checks out to MIT and include the fund #3894570. Also say that the gift is in memory of Paul Newton and send to the following address:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
P.O. Box 412926
Boston, MA 02241-2926

Congratulations Jackie Zayac - our new Region 12 Director.



Hot off the press - we are delighted to announce that Jackie Zayac has been elected as the Region 12 Director.

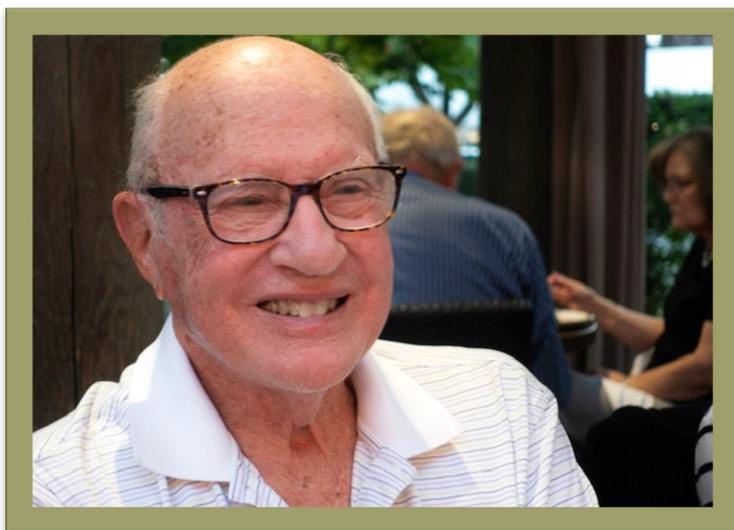
This is a new position created as part of the ACBL's reorganization of its Board of Directors, which consolidates the ACBL's 25 districts into 13 Regions. The Region 12 Director will represent D21 and D20 on the ACBL Board. District 20 and District 21 remain separate entities.

Jackie's four-year term begins on January 1, 2023. (This is the only time the Region 12 Director will serve a 4-year term. After this, it will be a three-year term. The extra year was added to stagger the future Region Director elections.)

Jackie said: "It will be my honor to represent District 20 and District 21 as the first Region 12 Director. I look forward to working with all of you. I believe that together we can guide the ACBL to success. I would love to hear from you. Please contact me at jackiezayac@gmail.com or (925) 284-2309 (landline) or (925) 282-0497 (cell)."

This position replaces the current District Director positions in D21 and D20. D21's current District Director, Stu Goodgold, will serve the remainder of his term as District Director.

MIKE BANDLER PASSES 15,000 MASTERPOINTS



If you play very well, for a long time, you might make it to 10,000 masterpoints. The ACBL will title you a Platinum Life Master and you can play in the Platinum Pairs at the Nationals

Then if you keep playing well, someday you might pass the magical 15,000 mark. This is where the league should give you Oak Leaf Clusters. Mike Bandler just got his Oak Leaves.

I've been playing with Micky (never Mickey) since Ronald Reagan was president. We've played in every level available, from dreadful cruise ship bridge through sectionals, regionals, nationals, the team trials and one World Championship (we didn't win).

He is my friend, partner, wingman, travel buddy, and advisor. I'm pretty proud to be able to tell you of his success. Mike started playing as an adult, and while working would play a couple of times a week. Once he retired from the phone company, he stepped up the pace. Playing with his wife Linda, me, the late Mike Katz, and many others, he set high goals and achieved them.

Mike was also president of Unit 499 for a couple of terms, and now is one of the operators of CCBC, our local club. You'll see him there early helping to set up the tables and chairs for the Monday game.

He's also an avid sports fan—we have an agreement: I follow boxing and auto racing; he oversees every other sport under the sun. Need to know about professional ladies field hockey? Mike's the guy to talk to.

A kind and courteous gentleman, Mike is always available to talk to up and coming players about the game and help you when he can. He fully believes in giving back to his community and helping out his friends—he served two terms as president of Temple Isaiah in Lafayette and was project manager of the construction of their day school.

Aside from the game, he has been married over 60 years, has a son and 2 daughters and 6 grandsons, in San Ramon, Dallas and Toronto.

Chris Pisarra

OH, IT'S JUST A GAME

OH, IT'S JUST A GAME

I dislike when people make that comment after a hand is played, yeah right, that's just because they won that round. I don't say that for a reason...

You'll read why-

I eat turkey year round, and I've played like a turkey at the bridge table too. When folks try and gobble-you-up with their aggressive bidding, don't get your feathers up. Like everyone who plays bridge, 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!

Encouraging news: Did you know that some folks have taken advantage of Unit 499's offer to pay for individual's one-time card fee for new members? Any questions, e-mail Sam Earnhardt@gmail.com. Many of our clubs are moving toward enticing people to in-person games.

Truly, this holiday can be a reflection of your life experiences, trying to be grateful for something. So much expectation surrounds this season, yet we should try and reflect on something positive, even a few blessings will do. Just a few good thoughts can change an Attitude. When we win at bridge, aren't we happy! So, if we can muster up the courage to have a grateful heart, you too may have a change of heart for the holidays.

It's here again, you've gotta attend. Soon fall will be upon us, and we hope this season blesses us with lots of rain-fall. No matter what the weather, we're still kickin' in Unit 499.

We're trying to bridge the gap by our upcoming game-- the Tunnel Tourney. It's East Against West, and whoever wins takes the coveted trophy home! For more info, contact Jackie Zayac at JackieZayac@gmail.com.

Speaking of Jackie: You may have heard that she has been elected to be our new Region 12 Director.

Big Kudos for Jackie!!!

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Lisa Assoni

The ShortCut Cook





D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

D21 NAP Report

Susan Mazzei, District 21 NAP Coordinator

October 2022

Contact Susan: samazzei@gmail.com



District 21 North American Pairs (NAP) Final Scheduled

Mark your calendars and grab your partner for the upcoming D21 NAP finals to be played in January 2023. ACBL provides a stipend to help send District winners to the Spring NABC in New Orleans. You must have qualified in a club game between June and August 2022.

Flight A Open is a 4-session event to be held at the **Monterey Clambake Regional** on Saturday January 7th, 2023 (10am & 3pm) with the top 50% of the field moving on to Sunday January 8th, 2023 (10am & after short lunch break).

Flights B & C Finals will be held on **Bridge Base Online (BBO)** according to the following schedule:

Flight B <2500 MPs: Saturday January 14, 2023 (10am & 2pm)

Flight C NLM's with <500 MPs: Sunday January 15, 2023 (10:00am & 2:00pm)

Flight B & C pairs **MUST pre-register** one week ahead of the event. Instructions for how to pre-register are in the D21 Conditions of Contest.

Please read the D21 Conditions of Contest for complete info on entering the finals:

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/nap/21.pdf>

To check if you've qualified, go to this link:

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/NAP_Qualifiers/NAP_D21.htm

You can find full ACBL Conditions of Contest by visiting the ACBL website:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

November, 2022

North

S K8542

H A3

D A93

C 1073

West

S AQ63

H KJ4

D 104

C K962

East

S J109

H 7652

D Q82

C J84

South

S 7

H Q1098

D KJ765

C AQ5

1C 1S P 2N

P P P P

West opened 1C and you respond 2N to your partner's 1S overcall. After the opening lead of the 2 of clubs you play the 10 from dummy (On a really good day it wins) which is covered by the J and you win the Q.

It certainly looks right to play on diamonds and since there is room for the Q to be with East you play to the A and finesse back to the J which wins. It now appears you are easily making your contract so you cash out the diamond suit while discarding a club and a spade from the dummy. West discards 2 low spades and a low club, East discards 2 low hearts.

Knowing that West must have the K hearts, you now lead the Q and West covers, you win the A and lead a heart back ending up with 3 hearts, 5 diamonds and 2 clubs for + 180 which is 70% while making +150 is 48%.

It might have occurred to West to not cover the Q hearts but then you can now lead a spade to dummy scoring ten tricks.

This is one of those hands that is fun to play because you are fairly sure of the location of the outstanding honors.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



BERGEN RAISES

By Mel Chaplin
melchaplin@comcast.net

Bergen Raises can be used when Opener starts the bidding 1H or 1S in first or second seat. Bergen Raises are based on the Law of Total Tricks concept which states that the side with 9 trumps should compete to the 3-level regardless of their combined HCP strength. The motivation behind Bergen Raises is to exploit the value of the ninth trump.

ADVANTAGES OF BERGEN RAISES

- Offers the ability to distinguish Responder's raises as weak, constructive or limit.
- A raise to the 2-level shows exactly 3 trumps.
- A raise to 3-level shows exactly 4 trumps.
- Preemptive aspects.

DISADVANTAGES OF BERGEN RAISES:

- No more weak jump shifts into a minor suit.
- Pushing to the 3-level when the contract might have been won at the 2-level.
- Providing information to the opponents so that they can make a more-informed lead.

HOW BERGEN RAISES WORK

Assume Opener starts with 1H (similar bidding after 1S). Responder's possible responses are:

2H.... Natural bid showing exactly 3 Hearts & 6-10 HCP.

3H!.....Preemptive bid showing exactly 4 Hearts & ≤ 7 HCP.

4H.... Preemptive bid showing 5+ Hearts & 6-10 HCP.

3C!....Artificial bid showing exactly 4 Hearts & 7-10 HCP
("Constructive Raise").

3D!... Artificial bid showing exactly 4 Hearts & 10+ HCP
("Limit Raise").

2NT! JACOBY 2NT showing 4+ Hearts & 12+ HCP.

3NT....Natural bid showing (a) precisely three Hearts, (b) a stopper in all the un-bid suits, (c) a balanced/semi-balanced hand & (d) 13-15 HCP.

BERGEN RAISES ARE "ON"

- When Partner or you are a passed hand.
- After an opponent makes an overcall.
- After an opponent makes a Take-Out Double ("BROMAD").

"BROMAD" is an acronym for "Bergen Raises Of a Major After a Double".

Assume Opener starts the bidding 1H & RHO calls a Take-Out Double
(Similar bidding after Partner opens 1S):

Responder's Possible Responses:

2H.....Natural bid showing exactly 3 Hearts & 6-10 HCP.

3H!.....Preemptive bid showing exactly 4 Hearts & ≤ 7 HCP.

3C!.....Artificial bid showing exactly 4 Hearts & 7-10 HCP.

3D!.....Artificial bid showing exactly 4 Hearts & 12+ HCP.

2D.....Natural bid showing 5+ Diamonds & 10+ HCP.

2NT!.....Jordan 2NT showing 4+ Hearts & 12+ HCP.

Your Hand: ♠KJxx ♥xx ♦J10xx ♣xxx (5 HCP).

<u>Partner</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>You</u>
1S	P	???

???You should bid 3S! a preemptive bid showing four Spades & ≤ 7 HCP. Your objective is to keep LHO from entering the auction. This is a LOTT bid. Partner has at least five Spades so the LOTT predicts a raise to the 3-level can be safely made.

Your Hand: ♠Jxxx ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣Jxx (2 HCP).

<u>Partner</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>You</u>
1S	P	3S!

Playing Bergen Raises you can bid 3S! Knowing Partner has at least five Spades you can make the preemptive bid of 3S according to the LOTT.

If your side were not playing Bergen Raises you would have to pass Partner's opening bid of 1S. You can't bid 1NT forcing (need a minimum of 6 HCP), you can't bid 2S (need a minimum of 6 Total Points), you can't bid 3S (that would be a limit raise). So, you couldn't bid anything & that would allow LHO to enter the bidding & the opponents would likely find their Heart fit or 3NT.

Your Hand: ♠xxxx ♥A10xx ♦xx ♣Axx (8 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Partner</u>
P	P	P	1H
1S	???		

???You should bid 3C! a Bergen Raise showing 4 Hearts & 7-9 Total Points. If the partnership has agreed to play Bergen Raises “ON” in competition then you can use the convention after a TAKE-OUT DOUBLE and also after an OVERCALL if you have the room to make a bid.

DEFENDING BERGEN RAISES

Double the opponent’s artificial 3C! or 3D! bid as a Take-Out Double (when both bids are weak).

Double the opponent’s 3D! bid as a Lead-Directing (when 3D! is a “Limit Raise”).

I can accurately count the Opponent’s Hands, Too.

LOTS OF PROS DON’T LIKE, OR DON’T USE, BERGEN RAISES

Larry Cohen, Mel Colchamiro, Bobby Wolff (“can’t recommend for any level”), Mike Lawrence, Kit Woolsey (“awful convention”), Allen Falk (“silly”), Eddie Kantar (“can live beautifully without them”).

Some Of Their Objections:

Artificial bids (like 3C!/3D!) give the Opponent’s opportunities to make Lead-Directing Doubles.

Gives opponents information they might not otherwise receive. They may than make a better opening lead.

Can’t use some useful bids like some limit bids, weak jump shifts into a minor suit, splinter bids.

FURTHER READING

“Bergen Raises”, Jerry Helms. Bridge Bulletin. July 2017.

“BROMAD”. Larry Cohen. Larryco.com.

“Bergen Raises”, bridgebum.com.

Next Time: SPIRAL RAISES

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



Drop-in is an all-year-round event and is alive and healthy.

If you want a friendly and helpful atmosphere in which to play bridge, don't forget the Lafayette Community Center where one can join a group of people who enjoy the game. There is a short lesson prior to the games we play. No partner is needed and when one needs help for a bid or a lead we have supervisors to help, both Carol Griffin and Debbie Rechnitz! We meet every Wednesday from 10-noon.

Classes given by Carol Griffin are starting the second week in Jan 2023

1-At Orinda Community Center for ten Tuesdays 10-noon Rusty Bridge I and II (a complete bidding review with lots of practice hands)

and from 1-3 Diamond supervised course (A chance to practice all the theories one learned in the Play of the Hand/ Diamond course with lots of hands to demonstrate all the techniques such as finesses, trick development, trump management, entries, etc.)

2- At Lafayette Parks and Recreation for ten Thursdays from 10-noon An Introduction to the 10 most useful Conventions and from 1-3 an Introduction to 2/1 Bidding

Carol Griffin

Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

November News

CCBC is now hosting games on Mondays (open at 11:15), Tuesdays (499er at 10:00) and Thursdays (999er at 10:30) at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road. The Tuesday game welcomes all players with fewer than 500 MPs to participate – you can even come without a partner. Games continue on BBO on Wednesday (open at 10:00) and 2 games on Friday (open at 10:00, 749er at 12:30).

Special games – **Saturday, November 5**, we will hold a Pro-Am game at our Orinda facility. Game time is 10:30, but come early for food and to work out a convention card with your partner. Light refreshments will be served. This will be a Unit Game with lots of extra MPs. The table fee (for both Pros and Ams) will be \$8. **Given the limited space, we will have a maximum of 15 tables. So, reserve your spot as soon as possible (and no later than November 1)! Contact Mark Humphrey at markhumphrey@comcast.net**

November 7-20 all in-person games will be Upgraded Club Championship games. These pay a lot of extra MPs at no extra charge.

No game on Thanksgiving, Thursday, **November 24**.

We would really like to see your smiling faces at the club!

☐ **Schedule changes:**

- ☐ Note that there are 2 schedule changes since we started in Orinda. The Monday game now starts at 11:15 (to get players out a little earlier), and the Thursday game starts at 10:30 (to avoid the morning traffic).

Thank you for your support of CCBC!



CCBC Game Schedule

Monday 11:45 Open In person \$9

Tuesday 10:00 499er In person \$8 (online on 9/5 only)

Wednesday 10:00 Open Online \$5

Thursday 10:30 999er In person \$9

Friday 10:00 Open Online \$5

Friday 12:30 749er Online \$5



Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club

Contact Lilah Newton at

lilahnewton@yahoo.com

The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge Group will be having our annual Holiday Party on December 7. We will be inviting our gentlemen friends to join us for this STAC game. We will gather at 9:30am in the main dining room for coffee, tea, and pastry/muffins. We will play our entire bridge game and then have our lunch consisting of a cup of soup and an entree salad followed by dessert. Reservations are required. If you would like to play please contact:

Lilah Newton or Sharon Tarpinian
925-963-0452 925-200-9758
lilahnewton@yahoo.com enchantment-s@comcast.net



Diablo Bridge Club (now at the Brass Door)

Mary Krouse

diablokr@gmail.com, 925 984-3846

Diablo Country Club will be closing for renovation in January. October was our first game at the **Brass Door Restau-
rant** in San Ramon. It was a great success. The address is 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Game time is 10:30, the charge will be \$38, including lunch. Games will be held there for about a year. However, the ***December game only will be back at Diablo, at 9:30.***

Hope to see you at our new location.

Mary Krouse

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor



On Saturday, November 19, the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club is having a **Swiss Team** game. The game will start at 1pm. Teams must register in advance. This can be done at regular games or by sending an email to RossmoorBridge@gmail.com. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, November 16.

The names of non resident players will be given to Rossmoor gate security. Drivers will be asked to show their drivers' licenses upon entry.

Kit Miller

DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall
Hartz Ave, Danville



The Danville game is starting back up Friday, September 23, at 9:30am, and will continue at that time slot every week minus holidays.

The game is limited to players with less than 2500 points, and meets at the Veterans Hall in Danville. Entrance to game is on Prospect Avenue.

Michael Gosnell

Lamorinda Bridge Club



Regular Opportunities to play: (As in the past, reservations will be required for all Face-to-Face duplicate games.) We are set up to hold day games outside when the weather permits. The Tuesday night game will be held inside. Wearing masks will be optional.

Weekly Games:

Tuesdays:

3pm - 5:15pm: Supervised Play; 14-16 boards with Master Points Awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is **Limited 499** master points. \$8/ person table fee.

7:00pm - 9:45pm: Open Game; \$8/person table fee (18-21 boards)

Fridays:

10am - 1:30pm: **Limited 499 Game;** \$10/person table fee.

We are hoping to reopen our Open Games on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 10am if there is sufficient interest in Face-to-Face games in 2023.

In November we will continue offering the following **Virtual Games**

Saturday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$5

Saturday 10am Open Game \$5

Sunday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$5

Sunday 10:00am Open Game \$5

Weekly Bridge Lessons:

Mondays:

Ongoing Beginning Bridge Classes 10am-12noon [ACBL Textbook: [Defence](#)]

Ongoing Intermediate Bridge Class 1pm-3pm [ACBL Textbooks] Topics available upon request. \$20/class.

Fridays:

Ongoing Beginning Bridge Classes 2pm-4pm [ACBL Textbook: [Bidding in the 21st Century](#)].

Questions:

Please contact Winnie at 925-683-1908 or winnie@wjasper.com.