

eDeclarer

January 2023

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Wow, one year ago, I pinched myself – ‘Am I really doing this thing called U499 President?’ Lots of opportunity in 2022. Post Covid Reentry and F2F. Well, more F2F now than in January 2022.

Here's a quick review of some of the areas that the board has partnered with the clubs in 2022.

The Unit sponsored one Unit Game, F2F (face-to-face), for each club. i.e. players are free.

Four clubs took advantage of this.

The Unit supported training new Directors. Reimbursement for cost of materials and for training fees was approved by the board. Mark Marty took advantage of this. Mike Kruley supported the new directors training.

Free play coupons were extended to transfers into Unit 499.

Free play coupons were sent to all new players and transfers during the Covid years.

Looking at 2023, here are the areas of focus by the BoD.

Ways to support new players, i.e. graduates of beginner classes, and encourage them to try F2F ACBL bridge.

Ways to encourage new players to try more advanced games.

A sectional

Seminars by experts

Updating the printed directory and distributing printed copies to the clubs

A new club is starting up in the Discovery Bay area – Overtricks by the Bay. Jan 10 is the inaugural bridge game. Contact Mark Marty, mark.marty@thatsafire.com, to reserve a seat.

Last month Chuck Silva was approved as a new board member. During the December meeting he was nominated and approved to be our new Treasurer. Congratulations Chuck. Here are the 4 officers approved by the BoD in the December Meeting.

President: Sam Earnhardt

VP: Anne Hollingsworth

Treasurer: Chuck Silva

Secretary: Marian Renvall

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

Sam Earnhardt, PMP

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...from the Editor

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The new year brings a new live game to Unit 499. January 10 is opening day for Overtricks by the Bay in Discovery Bay, and we hope to see lots of you there. Remember to make reservations each week, as space is limited. See the flyer in this issue for more information.

Let's support our clubs and keep our games alive. I hope to see lots of you online or in person in the new year!

Judy Keilin
Editor



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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)

Edward Lee
Richard Lin
John Pesek III
Donna Rhodes
Mack Riddle

New Club Master (20)

William Quarles

New Silver Life Master (1000)

Allen Smith

NEW MEMBERS

Christy DeVoe
Edgar McGinnis
Tim Benoit
Georgina Eckert
Nora Klein
Diana Miller

Please welcome these folks when you meet them at the tables.



...In Memoriam

Gary Hargrove passed away on December 1. He had been ill since April but continued to play bridge until a week before his death.

He was friendly, outgoing and full of life. He would ride fifty miles on his bicycle until recently. He was a good bridge player and a good friend. I, and all his various bridge partners, will miss his jokes and puns and his kind presence at the bridge table.

His wife of thirty-four years, Jane, his daughter and step daughter were at his bedside when he passed away peacefully.

RIP, Gary.

Cal Lutrin



One of my favorite memories of Gary is when he unequivocally won first prize in the Danville game's Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.

We'll miss you, Gary!

Judy Keilin

Dr. Gary K. Hargrove

December 1, 2022



Resident of Walnut Creek, CA

On December 1, 2022, Dr. Gary K. Hargrove succumbed to Stage IV lung cancer, a diagnosis he was given just eight months prior. He inspired family, friends and caretakers with his faith, courage, and sense of humor until the very end.

Gary was born in 1940 in Berkeley, CA to the late Dr. G. Kenneth Hargrove and Jean Gray Hargrove both graduates of UC Berkeley. He attended public schools in Berkeley, obtained his undergraduate degree at Stanford University, his Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of California San Francisco in 1966, and his specialty residency in urology at University of California College of Medicine in Irvine, CA, and a fellowship with the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Hargrove practiced medicine in Berkeley for several years before being called up from reservist to active duty with the United States Air Force during Operation Desert Shield. His service as a urologist at Travis Air Force Base excited him, motivating him to continue military practice where he enjoyed the collegial settings and scope of medical opportunities. He and the love of his life, Jane relished the new experiences and travel that his military career afforded. They worked together as a team to fill this period of their lives with deeply enriching adventures.

From Travis AFB to Elmendorf AFB in Alaska to RAF Lakenheath in England to Scott AFB in Illinois followed by a smattering of assignments in Germany, Italy, and Turkey, they saw, experienced and learned so much together. While in England Gary achieved the rank of full colonel.

He retired from active military service in 2005. Gary and Jane still had the travel bug so far the next ten years Gary chose locum tenens positions throughout the United States, including Maui. Wherever they landed, Gary immersed himself into the area, taking advantage of all it had to offer. In Alaska, he hiked, fished (not too successfully), cross-country skied, ice skated on frozen ponds, joined Sons of Norway Lodge, took a "polar plunge" into the freezing shore of Barrow, Alaska challenging a young F-16 pilot by jumping in first.

Gary was a natural when it came to striking up interesting conversations with complete strangers. He looked for finding a common ground with people, and sharing humorous anecdotes. His stories, jokes and puns became legendary. He was an avid golfer, a seriously competitive bridge player racking up over 1000 points in the ACBL. After retirement he took up bicycling on organized long distance rides that included cycling across Iowa with Ragbrai four summers. Before passing to the next life, Gary affirmed that he was at peace and felt that God was calling him home.

His survivors include his wife Jane Mattson Hargrove, his adult children Victoria Hargrove, Geoffrey Hargrove, Benjamin Hargrove and wife Babette, his stepdaughters Kim Flom and husband Jay, and Denise Siri, his grandchildren Kenneth Agardi, Eva Agardi, Jason Flom and wife Hayley, Justin Flom and fiancé Hailey, Stephen Siri and wife Annabel, Jane Siri Kadash and husband William, and one great granddaughter Sadie Jo Flom.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church sometime in 2023. Burial will be at Fort Snelling Military Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN.

****Save the Date****

The Unit 499/Unit 502

Tunnel Tourney

is being held on

April 8, 2023

at the Orinda Masonic Banquet Hall
9 Altarinda Road, Orinda

Happy New Year!

Jackie Zayac,

Unit 499 Tunnel Tourney Chair

jackiezayac@gmail.com

GRAND OPENING!



OVERTRICKS

by the Bay



Join us at Unit 499's newest club,
opening January 10, 2023 at 11am

at

Discovery Bay Community Center

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd.

Discovery Bay, CA 94505

The game will be directed by Mark Marty. There will be snacks. Players are asked to bring their own beverages in spill-proof covered containers. Initially, reservations will be required.

Contact Mark at thatsafire@gmail.com or 925-487-7832.

IT'S HERE-- 2023, AND YES, IT WILL BE A GOOD YEAR 🙏

It may be wishful thinking, but recalling old traditions can stir-up fond memories.

In the past years, traditionally, most folks stayed home for New Year's Eve and began to take an inventory about their lives and make new resolutions. We try and focus on new changes for the better, and look back on the past and say farewell at last!

So what sprouts up for Americans? We make 1.8 million New Year's resolutions each year. If you take into account the whole world, the number of people making resolutions skyrockets to hundreds of millions. And, the number one resolution is-- drum roll please-- losing weight, exercising more, and making good, healthy food choices. For us bridge folks, we can be a sedentary group. OMG, especially when the new Virus settled in.. Even my dog has gained weight. Yes, we all try to eat well.

However, sometimes our food choices fall flat as a pancake. So let the sun and bread rise, as we hope to lighten our load. This can be done, even when playing bridge from home.

Walking is a good thing, so if you can, exercise too. Try to eat light and think right!

This wonderful game of Bridge can cause the munchies, if you're playing in person, bring a sandwich, hard-boiled eggs or nuts, so you can snack till you're full and rush back to the table.

Happy New Year....

Lisa Assoni/

The Short Cut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

January, 2023

North

S 42

H 1073

D KQJ108

C A106

West

S 1073

H KQ9

D 542

C K982

East

S A965

H J8654

D 93

C Q4

South

S KQJ8

H A2

D A76

C J753



P P P 1N

P 3C P 3D

P 3N P P

The 3C bid by North is Puppet asking for a 5 card major because if South has 5 hearts it should play better in hearts. The 3D response says South doesn't have a 5 card major but does have 1 or both 4 card majors and you wind up in 3N with the 2 clubs opening lead.

It is now your goal to analyze the entire hand. You should be happy that they didn't start with a heart. While the "correct" play in clubs would be to duck this, you can be fairly sure that if East wins the club they will find the heart switch and then the opponents would be able to take 1 spade, 4 hearts and 1 club. However if you rise with the A clubs and lead a spade you will take 2 spades, 1 heart, 5 diamonds and 1 club and you might even get a 3rd spade if you lead towards your hand twice and East plays the A early.

As declarer, you must begin to plan the entire hand instead of just the play in any suit.

Note, even if the opening leader has both the K and Q of clubs, the most they can take in the club suit is 2 tricks because your J will stop the suit on the 4th round.

If you are interested, making 4 was 90%, making 3 was 60% and going down was 10%.

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.

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

Teachers

- Carol Griffin is a Ruby Life Master, ABTA Master teacher, and certified director with over 20 years of experience. She teaches all levels and runs an all-year-round supervised bridge game. She teaches at the Orinda Community Center 925-253-7716, Lafayette Community Center 925-284-2232 and privately. Visit her **website** for more information at <https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com>

Carol Griffin

Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

January News

CCBC continues its hybrid schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda and on-line on BBO. ACBL is reinstating the ACBL-wide games and charity games for in-person clubs in 2023, so there will be many opportunities in the coming year for extra MPs. **All** in-person games with more than 18 boards played also will receive additional MPs. There will also be at least 1 week per month of special games on-line with extra MPs.

CCBC is now hosting games on Mondays (open at 11:15), Tuesdays (99er at 10:00) and Thursdays (999er at 10:30) at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road. Games continue on BBO on Tuesday (749er at 10:00), Wednesday (open at 10:00) and Friday (open at 10:00).

Special games in January – The week of **January 9-15** will be Junior Fund week – with the proceeds going to assist bridge for junior players. Extra MPs awarded. Extra \$1. **This will be both on-line and in-person.**

The week of **January 23-29**, we will have club championship games for all in-person games. Lots of extra MPs with no extra charge!

Reminders:

- We lowered the MP limit for the Tuesday in-person game to 99 to attract newer players. We hope that players in this 0-99 MP range will join us for a welcoming way to start competitive bridge. This game welcomes all players with fewer than 100 MPs to participate – you can even come without a partner and ask questions about bidding during the game.
- We also added a 749er game on BBO at 10:00 on Tuesdays. We would love to see more players join this game.

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

CCBC Game Schedule

Monday 11:15 Open In person \$9

Tuesday 10:00 99er In person \$8

Tuesday 10:00 749er Online \$5

Wednesday 10:00 Open Online \$5

Thursday 10:30 999er In person \$9

Friday 10:00 Open Online \$5



DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall
Hartz Ave, Danville



The Danville game is starting back up Friday, January 20, 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

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor

In-Person Game Schedule:

Monday, 1pm, 499er stratified pairs and open pairs.

Tuesday, 1pm, 299er stratified pairs and open pairs.

Friday, 9am, 199er pairs.

Saturday, 1pm, stratified open.

Effective January 1 non residents may play together or with a Rossmoor resident at all of the above games.

For entry to Rossmoor for non residents please **EMAIL** Addie Mattox at amattox@earthlink.net. Advanced notice is appreciated.

Kit Miller



Overtricks by the Bay

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd.
Discover Bay, CA 94505

Grand Opening January 10 at 11am.

Reservations required. Mark Marty (thatsafire@gmail.com) or (925-487-7832)



Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

Jerry and Winnie are going to initiate a new series of Single Topic Seminars beginning on Monday January 9, 1-3 pm. To **support these sessions** we are also going to host an LBC sanctioned game on **Wednesday's from 2 to 4:30 pm** which will feature the usage of these seminar topics. This will be a 999er limited game. Hands focusing on the topic from Monday afternoon will be mixed in with randomly dealt hands. Players who attended Monday's afternoon lesson will be allowed to ask up to three questions per person for guidance from the director during the game. \$10 table fee.



We believe it is to your benefit to have the opportunity to use these concepts soon after learning them.

New Activity Schedule: (Starting January 9)

Mondays: 9:30-11:30am (class size is limited)

Bidding in the 21st Century (beginner bridge series). This is a 9-week series and the cost is \$200 and includes the textbook. Students who have taken the course from us previously and already own the textbook, may repeat the class for \$100.

Mondays: 1-3pm, Single Topic Sessions; \$20/session.

Tuesdays: 2:30-4:45pm, **Supervised Play**; 14-16 boards with Master Points Awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is **Limited 499** game; \$10 table fee.

Tuesdays: 7-9:45pm **Open** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

Optional Potluck Supper 5:45-6:45pm.

Wednesdays: 9:30am-Noon, **Limited 199** sanctioned game; \$10 table fee.

Wednesdays: 2-4:30pm, **Limited 999** sanctioned game; \$10 table fee.

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

As in the past, reservations will be required for all Face-to-Face duplicate games. Wearing masks will be optional.

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

Saturday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$6

Saturday 10am Open Game \$6

Sunday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$6

Sunday 10:00am Open Game \$6

Questions:

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