



The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Member News December, 2024

Editor Comments By Jennie Cleary

As we near the end of 2024, we'd like to thank everyone for their contributions to the Member News. We started the Member Newsletter back in July, with the goal of promoting a friendly, welcoming atmosphere at the club. The response to Member News has been very positive. We look forward to your continuing help in submitting information such as birthdays, anniversaries, trip reports, etc., in 2025.

Nancy Tessier is now a reporter for our Member News. We are very pleased to have her. Keep her in mind when you have some tidbits of information to share with the club. Welcome aboard Nancy!

Beppie Sarkar

Our player profiles continue with Beppie Sarkar, who is one of the newer players in the club. She has an interesting background, and is an avid bridge player. Welcome Beppie!

Beppie tells us: I was born in The Hague, The Netherlands, during the war. I was number 11 in a family of 12. Little known fact - in the last year of the war all children from the big cities (The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam) were sent to the farms in the country. There was no food left in the cities and thousands of Dutch people died of starvation.

I went to an all-girls school in The Hague, all the way through high school. I then went for 2 years to a business school. My first job was for an American company in The Hague.

I married, had 2 sons, and divorced. In 1972 I met my new husband, who was a PhD chemist from England. He was born in India, studied and worked in Europe. During his job in England he got transferred to the Netherlands where I was lucky enough to meet him. In 1978 his company (American Cyanamid) transferred him to the US as a research director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East. It was supposed to be for 2 years but ended up to be 10 years. Subsequently we lived again 8 years in the Netherlands, back to the States for another 5 years, then to Belgium.

My husband took early retirement and decided to use the many patents he had earned during the years, to start our own company, manufacturing some specialty chemicals, mostly in India and Eastern Europe and our customers were large American and European Companies.

In 2003 we returned to the US, because one of my sons was married here and I had 2 grandchildren. We bought a house in Newtown CT and one, for the winter, in St. Augustine. After that I have stayed in the US, and I got my American Citizenship in 2010. I remained a "snow bird" till my husband's passing in 2015 and decided to stay in Florida.

I first learned bridge in the Netherlands. We were 4 friends and hired a bridge teacher. She would come (in Dutch fashion) on her bicycle to our home, had her lessons with her and enough hands to practice. Later on I went to play in a duplicate bridge club in The Hague.

How I got to the Villages? Three of my bridge friends from St. Augustine and myself rented a place here for a couple of days to play in November last year's tournament. I had heard about the Villages, but I had never been here.

All four of us were happily surprised at how very nice all the people were at the bridge tables. I also loved the whole concept of the Villages. Before I had no idea how beautiful the Villages were.

Well, the next day I decided that I would love to live in surroundings like this, contacted a realtor, and within 2 days I bought a place here and sold my house in St. Augustine.

This was the very best quick decision I have made in my life! I realize it was a bit late in my life but better late than never. I am healthy, happy, and hope to have quite some more good years left here (in bridge paradise!). I also feel very safe here.

I can honestly say; bridge saved my life after my husband passed. What else could I have possibly done with my life to fill the time and meet so many wonderful people.



Beppie Sarkar

Kenya and Tanzania **By Buck Buchanan**

On 4:00 PM on Thursday December 19 at Laurel Manor Rec Center, Buck Buchanan will give a talk to the Village Travel Club on his and Mauri's trip to Kenya and Tanzania. It is open to the public and there is no charge.

Buck and Mauri have been on over a hundred trips in the past sixty years, and they both agree that the Kenya and Tanzania trip was the best.



Football and Duplicate Bridge ... A Lot Alike

By Nancy Tessier

As the football season winds down, Nancy Tessier shares her thoughts on the similarities between football and bridge:

Now at first glance you might consider these two forms of entertainment are very different. But I disagree and here is why...

Prior to each game both teams huddle and talk about their strategy and game plan

Before the first football play, there is a coin toss
Before the first bridge play, the director tells you where to sit

In football there is an offense and a defense
In bridge there is an offense and a defense

In football you might try for two extra points after a touchdown
In bridge you might try for an extra trick

Football has plays called
Bridge has bids called

In football, you have to make a plan based on your opponent's ability
In bridge, you know your opponent's plan from their convention cards

In Football - make a plan before you play
In Bridge - make a plan before you play

Football has time outs at the end of each possession
In bridge the time outs are when you change seats and opponents

Football has a 2-minute warning
Bridge has a 4-minute warning

Football has a half time
Bridge has a cookie break

When mistakes are made in football, the referee makes a decision
When there is a mistake in bridge, the director makes a decision

Football has penalties
So does bridge

Football has coaches
Bridge has mentors

Pass is a word used in both games

Football passes may be intercepted and the other team starts making plays
Bridge players might trump in and start making plays

Both have interference

Both have avid fans

Football has playoffs and Superbowls
Bridge has sectional, regional and national tournaments

Football has huddles
Bridge players talk over the hands played

But there are a few big differences between these two games:

**BRIDGE DOES NOT HAVE:
A GREAT FIGHT SONG
TEAM NAMES....OR
CHEERLEADERS**

Celebrity Sighting

Bill Cleary made his usual early morning stop at Starbucks in Sumter Landing on November 13, and was lucky enough to meet Tiger Woods! He said Tiger was very handsome and personable, and spent a lot of time talking with the Starbucks crew, even demonstrating some golf shot techniques when asked.



Bill Cleary and Tiger Woods

Alzheimer's Followup

Nancy Turner, committee Chairperson for The Longest Day Alzheimer fundraiser, noted that our final tally was \$762 to Alzheimers. We also heard from one of our members, Larry Abramovitz. Larry shared that his wife Adele passed October 23, 2024. Adele had suffered from this dreadful disease for over 8 years, of which the last 6 years, 4 months were spent in a Memory Care facility here in The Villages. TVDBC extends our condolences to Larry and his family. We are very sorry for your loss.

France

By Carol Payette

I have loved France since I studied about it in a high school history class, so much so, that I have visited it over 45 times and toiled away for ten years trying to learn the French language .

One of my most memorable trips to France was a two month solo jaunt several years ago. I rented a car for the first month and traveled through Northern France and a bit of Brittany. The second month. I rented an apartment in the Marais district of Paris. The first month I had a hotel reservation for the first two nights. After that I booked as I travelled. Running across a three room apartment on Gold Beach where the Brits landed on DDay, I rented it for a week. Walking the beach and seeing debris from Churchill's artificial harbor floating in the water was mind boggling. Visited the American Memorial, Pointe du Hoc , a 35 meter perimeter where 225 US rangers scaled the cliff and were mowed down by machine gun fire waiting for them. Only 77 lived to fight on, was heart wrenching. Praying at the German Cemetery for that country's sons and fathers, so moving.

Dinan Brittany, the land of gallettes and hard cider, is probably the most beautiful city I've visited in France, an Impeccably preserved walled city with ramparts and 12th century original buildings. I found a beautiful small chateau, Chateau du Landen at Bezancourt, which I made my base for five nights and visited Marshall Rommel's headquarters, Chateau de la Roche Guyon, built as a keep perched on a limestone cliff making it perfect for defense. A bunker with casements down below was dug out of the rock. There was a 250 step subterranean passage, constructed through the heart of the cliff, in the 12th century connecting the newer manor to the keep. Honfleur, Deauville, Rouen were other interesting stops.

Year after year I return to different areas of France, Provence and the Dordogne areas, my favorites. I recently returned from a week in Paris. It never disappoints. A cooking lesson, visit to San Chapelle, La Place Des Vosges and day trip to the oldest champagne house in France, Maison Ruinart, their cellars habitating old chalk mines, were highlights.



Carol Payette



La Roche Guyon Castle



Lyons La Foret

Bridge Tips for Newer Players

By Buck Buchanan

1. Do not lead unsupported aces.
2. Be afraid of a long suit in dummy when you are defending.
3. When you are on the declarer's right and are on lead, lead to the weakness of the board.
4. Don't try for a top on every hand. Play for averages and if you get an occasional top, you'll have a good game.
5. Be very cautious doubling a suit contract if the hands are very distributional. If you have a two-way finesse, don't take it until you can get a count on the opponent's hands.

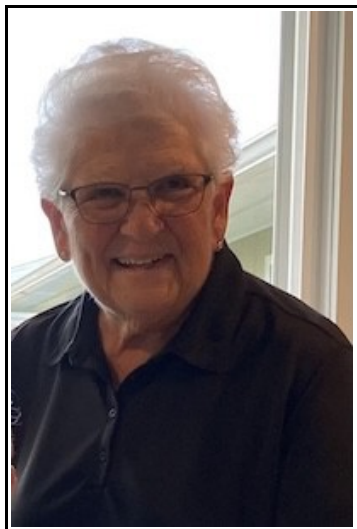
Bridge Winning Streak

We received this from Rick Gautier:

Starting 11/4 **Art Franz** has played in just (5) 1500 games with (3) partners (Deb Brunoehler, Louise Hodgkins, and Douglas Carlson) and has come in **first** each time! 11/4, 11/7, 11/11, 11/13, and 11/14. This streak was intact until Monday 11/18, when he came in.... second... Nice play, Art!

When They're Not Playing Bridge....

By Nancy Tessier



Gale Carroll is an avid golfer, both in the Villages and in northern NY where she and her husband spend their summers. Gale has been a member of the Mallory Hill Villages Cup team for several years. This year, Team Mallory was the 2024 Villages Cup Champ!



John Williams - We are proud of our retired Air Force Lt. Colonel. John served at several bases including Japan, Vietnam and Iceland. He met his wife met at a college bridge game. Guess you could say they teamed up ...for life. John enjoys reading about politics and business. A rare one, he is from Pompano Beach, Florida originally. A fun fact: Upon retiring John purchased a drycleaning business because he did not like the way they did his uniforms. We salute you and will see you on the upcoming February bridge cruise.



What is special about Thursday night at Rohan? **Pat Holmes** warmly greets her players and we settle in. Her chocolate chip and pecan cookies (and don't forget the brownies) await us at break. And until the "penultimate" call is made, we enjoy our evening. Outside of being a director at several games a week, Pat enjoys her time with Abby, a special Scottish Terrier with huge brown eyes. Her dark color is accented with a beard and eyebrows. Pat also enjoys reading. Come join the fun at her games.

Bridge Tournament

The VDBC recently hosted a Villages Sectional and a Non Life Master Regional Tournament on November 23-25 at the Savannah Center. Kudos to co-chairs Donna Brown and Merle Erlich for a fine job in organizing and running this event. Many thanks to all the volunteers who also helped make this event a success. It takes a village.



Savannah Center

Ice Cream Anyone?



Sharon Kruger and Gloria Bennett

The Lighter Side

By Mary Jo Johnson

Those of you who are placing Christmas lights/decorations in your yards, can you please avoid anything that has Red or Blue flashing lights together? Every time I come around the corner, I think it's the police and I have a panic attack. I have to brake hard, toss my vodka, fasten my seat belt, throw my phone on the floor, turn my radio down, and push the gun under the seat. All while trying to put my clothes back on.

It's just too much drama, even for Christmas. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. 🌲

A big thank you to all who participated with their articles. If you have member news to report, have an interesting background or experience you'd like to share, have been involved in a fun activity or have a trip report, we'd love to hear from you. Pictures would be great! Do you enjoy a fun hobby? What's the most interesting thing that has ever happened to you? What's the one place you'd like to see? A special birthday or anniversary coming up? Please send your articles to Buck Buchanan at BuckandMauri@aol.com, Jennie Cleary at wkc44@comcast.net, or Nancy Tessier at NancyBrooks2020@gmail.com. Buck and Jennie are also able to help with write-ups if you send us the basics.