

states and every continent (yes, including Antarctica). We have taken at least 25 cruises including 8 river cruises and visited about 85 countries around the world and seen 6 of the seven wonders of the modern world. We missed the Taj Mahal before Covid and are now staying closer to home.

On one of our vacations, we stopped in The Villages to visit a friend. We were highly impressed and she made it her mission to have us rent near her. So, after renting for four years, we bought a model home in Duval but kept our Northern home. We began with one month of renting and worked our way up to five months of living in The Villages—the coldest ones.

Doesn't matter where I am, reading is my top enjoyment as I can do it anywhere—at home, on ships, in airports or hotels. Bridge would be my second choice of activities. Growing up, cards were an integral part of family gatherings, but we played 500 bid. Learning Bridge was an interest that time didn't permit. My girlfriend and I saw an offering of free lessons and took advantage of it. That was somewhere near 1990. We were hooked, and have been learning ever since as there is always something new. I play F2F in PA and FL, and online everywhere.



Over the years I have been involved in many organizations some of which offered volunteer opportunities. One of those is in The Villages—Abundance of Love where I can loom or crochet hats and scarves in my spare time. In PA I have volunteered at our local hospital, library, and church. My other pastimes include walking and exercising, sewing, quilling, eating out with friends and gardening. However, we downsized two years ago and haven't been able to pursue that interest, but friends have donated garden items so we can still can and freeze produce.

New Year's Resolutions

1. I resolve to watch my partner's signals and discards, and I will watch the opponent's signals and discards.
2. When I am declarer, I resolve to pause and think out the play of the hand before I play to the first trick.
3. When I am declarer, I resolve to remember what the opponents have bid and will plan and play accordingly.
4. I resolve to be more cautious about making vulnerable overcalls and preempts.
5. I resolve to be more disciplined in counting trump.
6. I resolve to not let my competitiveness get the best of me, and to try not to make "phantom" sacrifices when the opponents bid an unmakeable game.

Florida's Friendliest Bridge Club?

By Buck Buchanan

The Villages bills itself as Florida's friendliest home town. The question is, "Is the Villages Bridge Club the friendliest bridge game in Florida?" Let's try to make the answer to this question a resounding "yes". What can we do to insure the friendliness of our bridge games?

We can smile and say hello to a pair when you first see them. If you've never met them before, introduce yourselves and welcome them to the Villages. You can help older and less-active people when they try to stand up. Offer to get them coffee or sweets. You can make an effort to move the boards when needed. You can help carry in things to help the Director. If you are the first person at the table, you can set up the bid boxes. After the game is over, push in your chair and help tidy up.

One person I always like to see is a snowbird named Gail Smith. She not only greets us when we play her, she always complements me on the infrequent occasions when I play a hand well. When is the last time you complemented someone for playing a hand well?

When the pandemic hit five years ago and we had to play on line if we wanted to continue to play bridge, my wife Mauri was unable to master on-line playing. Colleen Treanor very kindly offered to come to our house to show Mauri how to play on-line. Wasn't that a nice thing to do? Thanks, Colleen! Mauri eventually became a Life Master!

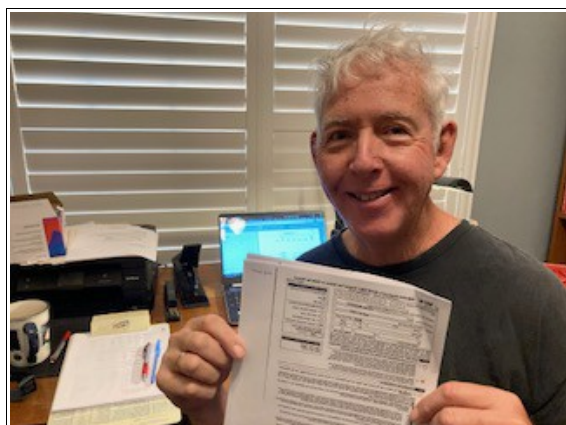
Several months ago, I was playing at Seabreeze, and when I left, I accidentally left

my cell phone and Kindle in the bridge room. I realized my mistake after I got home, and I was mentally kicking myself because I had to drive nine miles back to Seabreeze.. Just then, the doorbell rang, and it was Ginnie Johnson, bringing me my cell phone and Kindle. I don't know where she lives or how she knew where I lived, but it was a really kind and thoughtful effort.

"What's the nicest thing you can do for someone this week?"

When They're Not Playing Bridge.....

By Nancy Tessier



Tom Tessier – Bridge Club Treasurer.

When Tom isn't busy playing golf or bridge he is monitoring the bridge club books. Paying directors and expenses, balancing the books and keeping the IRS happy are only part of his duties. He moved to The Villages from Philadelphia in 2009. He married Nancy in November 2023..they met playing bridge. They enjoy life with Aspen an Australian Labradoodle, and Morgan the cat. Tom was

an Air Force officer from 1968 to 1972, then earned his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton Business School. He worked as a CPA in Philadelphia, retiring from full time work in 2002.



Carol Mayer When she is not playing bridge, this Chicago native enjoys golf, plays, dancing and singing with the Village Pops chorus. She is also active in our mentor program. (THANK YOU). A fun fact - Carol wrote a serious book about thumb sucking. It was also translated into Portuguese for Brazil and was in print for 20 years.

Bridge Etiquette

1. Show good manners; be polite to opponents. Greet them when they come to the table, and thank them when finished playing. Be a good bridge ambassador.
2. Don't gloat or undermine your opponents successes. No "high fives" when you win a hand. Don't thank the opponent for a good board or a trick you shouldn't get. This makes people feel bad and makes you look like a jerk.
3. Don't yell at or criticize your partner.
4. Don't criticize your opponents.
5. Avoid post-mortems with partner directly after a hand is finished. Move on **quickly** to the next hand.
6. Don't tell opponents what mistakes they made, how they could have won an extra trick or how they misplayed a hand or they bid incorrectly, unless they ask.
7. Don't snap the cards. This can be difficult for those who wear hearing aids and is just generally annoying for those who have good hearing.
8. Play in tempo – try not to take too long over calls or when playing a card.
9. When on lead against a contract, LEAD and then write down the contract on your scorecard. Same thing for dummy, lay your hand down and then write down the contract.

Bridge Tip – Leads

An old tip comes to mind: with 4 trump, (or you think partner has 4 trump), lead your longest suit. Declarer is likely to be short where you are long. If you can force declarer to ruff, your side may end up with more trump than the declaring side...a bad situation for them.

If short in the opponent's trump suit, lead from a singleton. If partner wins the trick right away or gets in while you still have some trump, partner can give you a ruff.

Rohan Christmas Party



December 5th was a festive night at Pat's 750 game at the Rohan Rec Center. With 20 1/2 tables and lots of goodies to share, we all enjoyed celebrating the season together.

Play of the Hand Quiz for Limited Players

Contract: 6 Spades, south
Opening Lead: Ace Hearts

North

S AQJT3
H Void
D KJ987
C KQT

S K54
H AJ98764
D 2
C 53

S Void
H 532
D T6543
C A9842

South

S 98762
H KQT
D AQ
C J76

Bidding

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
1S	2H	4H	P
4S	P	5H	P
5S	P	6S	P
P	P		

How would you play this hand to make 6S? Please email your solution to Buck Buchanan (Buckandmauri@aol.com) or Jennie Cleary (wkc44@comcast.net). Names of those submitting the correct solution will be featured in next month's newsletter.

For extra credit: which of "My Mother's Rules" applies? Hint – October Member News

TRIP REPORT

Sandy and Dave Baker recently took an adventurous trip to Egypt. Sandy tells us: Christmas is memories of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future, so as we move into 2025, we will focus on both courage and hope, and remembering poignant memories and gratitude for each day.

Gratitude that we can still travel. On Dave's bucket list was a wish to go to Egypt, and my request was that it needed to have a spiritual component, so through A.R.E (Edgar Cayce's Association for Research and Enlightenment), I found a trip with 30 people going for eleven days. It was an amazing vacation which included a two-hour visit in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid where we all meditated. The trip included travel by plane all over Egypt and a cruise down the Nile plus camel rides!



Pies

By Jimmy Olsen

A short time before Thanksgiving, while I was playing bridge... my thoughts turned to the delicious feast on the upcoming Thursday. And then, yes, DESSERT. Yes....PIE. Oh, so many options for this delicious treat.

Maybe a brief commentary will give you some pie information. The first known use of the printed word "pie" in the British Isles appears in 1303 in Yorkshire, England. The word pie also could mean a magpie, the bird which led to several types of meat "baked" and thus pie. Remember the old nursery song "with 4 and 20 blackbirds baked in a pie"? Maybe the connection is a stretch but Wikipedia says it is so. There are historical Egyptian tomb paintings during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II (1304 to 1237 BC) featuring pies. Ancient Greece (5th century BC) enjoyed sweetmeats and small fruit filled pastries. The Romans "covered birds or hams with dough". Many recipes are mentioned in Marcus Porches Cato's era (234 - 149 BC). During the Puritan times sources claim Oliver Cromwell liked mince pit (a mixture of meats). This was an "underground" eating activity and the ban was lifted in 1660. Pumpkin pie was favored in England from 1650. Our Pilgrim fathers brought recipes to America adapting to local ingredients. And thus, with the abundance of apples we now have apple pie.

We associate PIE as a baked dish usually with pastry dough and fillings. But there are other uses of the word. Think of pie hole, pie in the sky, humble pie, a pie in the face, cutie pie, easy as pie and of course PIZZA pie. The designation for St. Pete Clearwater Airport is, you guessed it, PIE. And for the "think outside the box" folks, the mathematical wizard number Pi 3.14159. This is a very useful tool for calculating the size of a circle, and a pie is usually round. I knew geometry would come in handy someday. Might help in determining how many servings are needed.

And what better way to analyze this crusty delight than a survey of eager bridge players and friend participants. Below are the findings of my query "WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIE"?

Chess 1, coffee, 1 strawberry 1, strawberry rhubarb 1, rhubarb 1, chocolate pecan 1, peach 1, blueberry 2, lemon meringue 3, banana cream 4, key lime 4, mincemeat 4, chocolate cream 5, cherry 6, pecan 8, pumpkin 7 (might have been a choice due to Thanksgiving next week), and the winner..... apple with 10 votes. What is yours? As for me, let's make it a la mode.

The Lighter Side

By Mary Jo Johnson

NINE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- **Number 9 – Death is the number one killer in the world**
- **Number 8 – Life is sexually transmitted**
- **Number 7 – Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die**
- **Number 6 – Men have two emotions: hungry and horny, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eye, make him a sandwich.**
- **Number 5 – Give a person a fish, and you feed them for a day. Teach the person to use the internet, and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.**
- **Number 4 – Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.**
- **Number 3 – All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.**
- **Number 2 – In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make the world normal.**
- **Number 1 – Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today might burn your ass tomorrow.**

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.

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