

## LIBRARY CORNER



Many of the members of the Chattanooga Bridge Center may not know that we have a bridge-book author among us—one who has written many books on the different aspects of how best to play our favorite pastime. She is none other than Marilyn Shelton. The overall title of the series she has written is *Overheard at the Bridge Club (passing along the tried and true)*. Four of the books that she has written that are part of our library collection are the following:

- *Hand Evaluation (including chapters on Klinger count and losing trick count)*
- *Namely Notrump: A Comprehensive Notrump System*
- *Strictly Suits: Complete 2/1 System and Gadgets*
- *Third and Fourth Seat Bidding: Psychs and Lights; Reverse Drury; Strategy*

Be sure to read the beginning pages of each book, whether you find a preface, an acknowledgements page, a dedication page, a "Why I wrote this book" page, and more. Marilyn is very generous in mentioning the bridge players who have helped her/played bridge with her along the way, and several of the names will be recognized by you. Her writing style is easy to follow, and she always includes example hands for you to work with. We are certainly lucky to have Marilyn in our club!

## ALERT!!

*A publication of ACBL Unit 206*

**October 2021**

**Editor: Sandy Cervantes**

**Technical Editor: Cheryl Whitfield**

## A message from the president...

I am delighted that Sandy Cervantes has volunteered to edit a monthly newsletter for us. I hope everyone enjoys reading it. I know I will.



I am so pleased to be back to near normal with our face-to-face games. I am also pleased to see so many of you, but am missing those of you who have not returned.

Please consider playing at any of the clubs around town. Of note is a change in one of the clubs in Unit 206. Within the last few months, the Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club has amended its by-laws to open its games to all duplicate players. An invitation is no longer required. This club meets on Thursdays at 10:30 at the Mountain City Club in downtown Chattanooga. Please let Suzy Bryant or Susie Crouch know if you would like to be on the email list for this game. The game is \$6 plus the cost of lunch. After attending the third time, there is a \$10 annual membership fee.

On the next page of the newsletter is information about a garden work day on 10/7. Please come spend an hour or two helping to beautify our exterior. We are also having team games more frequently. They are really a lot of fun. If you have never played in a team game, come give it a try.



The ambassador program is alive and well. Please come play with the ambassador. They don't like to go home! Our monthly weekend games always have great food and aren't to be missed.

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## President's message (continued)

There are two sets of classes happening right now. Mike Holmes is teaching a beginner session on Saturday mornings. He plans to follow up with 2 more sessions in 2022 for this beginning group. Dan Chandler, Suzy Bryant and Janie Hunt are teaching an intermediate class on Sundays.

Many of our members are working on a variety of committees from education to physical properties. If you have an interest in serving on a committee, forming a committee or have any other way you would like to be involved in our club, I am just a text, phone call or email away. I would love to hear from any of you with comments or suggestions.

See you at the bridge center, Nooga, Fairyland or Cleveland.

*Iris*



### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go out to the winners of our September Team Game: **Suzy Bryant, Leigh Broadway, Susie Crouch and Rosalie Basten.**

Way to go ladies!! Coming in second were Earl and Susan Rothberger, Cal Brassfield and Sandy Cervantes. Third place went to John and Stephanie Felker, Buddy Landis and Roger Briley. We have another team game scheduled this month on October 16 — this time an 8 is enough. See page 5 for more details.

### GOOD LUCK, JOE

Much effort is made to equalize the playing field in duplicate bridge allowing, talent and technique to dominate over luck. However, we all know that at times the bridge gods can play a role in our success.



Joe, there's no doubt that your bridge expertise will take care of itself — we're merely asking the bridge gods to shine their light on you during the USBF Senior Championship and give you an added edge!

## HELP!!

**Ginny and George Gannaway** once again have generously volunteered to take charge of our yearly club beautification project to make our building and grounds sparkle and shine! All they need to accomplish this laborious effort is a gas weed whacker and YOU!



Please lend a hand on **Thursday, October 7**. The plan is to meet at the club at 9:00 a.m. If we get enough hands on deck, we can finish early and perhaps get together for a quick bite to eat. Don't stay at home and miss all this fun. All you need is to bring your smile, your gardening gloves and a willingness to burn some calories. (Of course, if you have the weed whacker, bring it too!!)



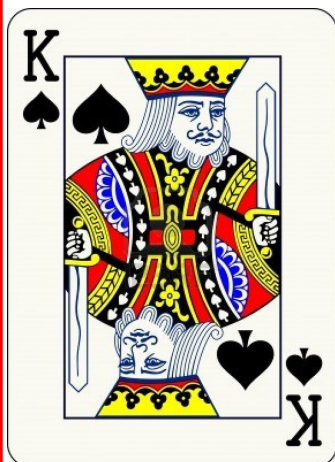
### Hardy, Har, Har

The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits!

### HATS OFF TO...

A tip of the hat and a very big thank you go to our newest director **Richard Spangler**. Thanks, Richard, for volunteering your time for this important job.





## MLB — It's not just baseball — There's Major League Bridge, too!

(Editor's note: Just by chance last week I overheard David Vine ask **Joe Viola**, "How'd it go?" Little did I know that David was referring to Joe's participation in the round robin team games whose purpose is to select the two top teams to compete representing the United States in the next Bermuda Bowl. Curious about his experience, I asked Joe if he would consider giving us a glimpse of what it's like to play at that level. Joe kindly agreed and his article follows.)

Since last year, I have been playing many team games online with friends from California. On Sep 13-15, I played in the USBF (US Bridge Federation) Open Championship. This qualifies the top two teams for the Bermuda Bowl (World Championship) in Italy in Mar-Apr 2022. Anyone, who is eligible to represent the US internationally is allowed to pay the USBF membership fee and the entry fee and play against the top players in our country.

In this event, there were 21 teams entered. We played a 3-day round robin online — 7 boards against each of the other teams. The top 12 teams qualified for a second round robin online — two 7 board matches against each of the other teams with the top 8 teams invited to the knockout phase in Schaumburg, IL Oct 5-12.

The matches are played on RealBridge, a UK website that is similar to BBO with some differences that I like. One of these is that the video is integrated into the system. During the hands South-West and North-East are "screen mates". You share audio and video with your screen mate, so that you can ask about your opponents' agreements without giving UI (Unauthorized Information) to your partner. You can also just chat. In my experience, all the players have been polite and friendly. Some talk a lot while others do not. You also get to talk with your partner and other opponent between hands and to talk with your teammates after the match.

In a previous USBF event (for fun, no US or world honors at stake), my screen mate was a famous player, who was in a talkative mood. He made an unusual bid that he knew would cause his partner a problem, and then he laughed. While his partner was thinking, we talked about his bid. He also exhorted his partner (who couldn't hear any of his comments) to play faster!

As we expected, we had a rough time. We finished 19th out of the 21 teams. We won 7 of our 20 matches, but our losses were by bigger margins than our wins. We did beat Zia's team 5-1. One of the challenges is that you play against a lot of unusual systems. Most of the players play 2-over-1 or Precision Club. Some play Polish Club, and we played against one pair that played Swedish Club. It was my first experience against Swedish Club. Luckily for us, they had a hand that didn't work well for their system, and they ended up in 2♦x down for -800. Because you can chat with your screen mate, this is a lot less intimidating than it sounds.

I'm looking forward to the USBF Seniors. The online round robin is on Oct 1-2. There are 10 teams entered, and the top 8 qualify for the knockouts, again in Schaumburg. I think that we have a good chance to qualify for the trip. I have heard that these events at the Hyatt Regency are extremely well run. Since everyone is staying and playing at the same hotel, there are great opportunities to socialize. Wish me luck.

(All the information on the USBF Championships is available at [usbf.org](http://usbf.org).)

There is delayed kibitzing of these events. To find out how to kibitz, go to [usbf.org](http://usbf.org), then click on "2021 Senior USBC" followed by "Kibitzing."



# Nooga Bridge East

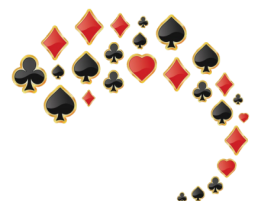
We want to welcome our new players Gayle Coleman, Hilary and Suzanne Nixon and Lorine Lorino to Nooga Bridge East. We also had two players visit from the Huntsville club, Darrell Caldwell and Gail Seale.

Extra points at no additional cost! We're happy that Nooga Bridge offers special games several times a month. There is never an additional charge for special games at Nooga Bridge. The best part is these games pay extra points.

We hope to see you at one of our tables soon! Remember you must confirm your attendance with Sue Riddle. Just email her at [sueriddle423@gmail.com](mailto:sueriddle423@gmail.com).



## MANNERS ARE IMPORTANT!



### Respect the time of others

- ♦ We recommend that you arrive at least 15 minutes before starting time.
- ♦ Watch the timer and be considerate of others; move when the round is called. Don't move early or late; move only after the round is called.
- ♦ Have a completed Convention Card (both you and your partner).
- ♦ Make your opening lead or table the dummy before you write the contract in your private score or the BridgeMates. Remember the opening lead is to be led face down to allow for questions!
- ♦ Bid and play in a timely manner.
- ♦ When moving to a new table, make sure you are at the right table with the right opponents. Also check to see that Bridgemates and Place Card agree.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, October 11 —  
Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Friday, October 15 —  
Face-to-face Mentor/Mentee game at the CBC

Saturday, October 16 —  
Eight Is Enough game at the CBC

Monday, October 25 —  
Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Wednesday, November 3 —  
Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, November 14—  
Special Pairs Game at the CBC

## Mentor/Mentee Game



The Online Mentor/Mentee game will be starting up again after taking a brief hiatus in September. The game is on BBO at 7 PM every second and fourth Monday with 500 HCP as the dividing line between a Mentor and a Mentee. The purpose of the game is not only to improve the play of the Mentee but to give everyone a chance to play with someone they don't normally play with. This is why the club has been making the assignments. If you would like to play, either as a Mentor or Mentee, please contact Bert Shramko at [Stdoms48@gmail.com](mailto:Stdoms48@gmail.com).



# EIGHT IS ENOUGH



It's time to start forming your team for the upcoming **Eight-Is-Enough Team Game** on Saturday, October 16, at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Lunch will be served at 11:30, and the game will start at noon. To be eligible, a team's total point count cannot exceed "8." Points are calculated based on masterpoints as shown below:

"A" 1500+ MPs = 3 points

"B" 500—1500 MPs = 2 points

"C" 0-500 MPs = 1 points

Four "B" players can form a team ( $4 \times 2 = 8$ ). A team of two "A" and 2 "C" players ( $3 + 3 + 1 + 1 = 8$ ) also works as does a team of one "A", 2 "B" and one "C" player ( $3 + 2 + 2 + 1 = 8$ ). This way the playing field is equalized. The game is always fun, is usually unpredictable and provides the opportunity to play with someone new. Cost for the team is \$24.

Lunch will be spaghetti and meatballs and players are asked to bring appetizers, salads or desserts. The spaghetti and meatballs will be provided by Sigma Beta Sorority — a national organization and one of the oldest philanthropic sororities in the United States. Epsilon Pi is the first chapter to be chartered in Tennessee and is located here in Chattanooga. The ladies of this organization are donating the main course to tempt you to purchase their delicious meatballs and sauce. The funds raised will be put to good use with local charities and with individuals facing adversity. Orders will be taken at our team game and will be delivered to you frozen in approximately four weeks.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Margie Moses will have a sheet with her at the Monday Nooga East game. Also, you can call or text Margie at 910.620.4582 to place an order.



## How would you answer the question...

### "To me bridge is \_\_\_\_?"

Start thinking about your answer because each month, one of you will be asked to fill in the blank. Bert Shramko is our inaugural respondent and without hesitation, Bert quickly replied, "To me bridge is **fun!**"



## LET'S TRY SOMETHING NEW



The Board has selected the 3rd Friday of the month as a regular date for a face-to-face mentor/mentee game, and October 15 will be our inaugural game. Assignments will be made prior to the game with enough time for players to create a convention card. If you are interested in participating either as a mentor or a mentee, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the CBC or you can contact Sue Shramko at [smsramko@epbf.com](mailto:smsramko@epbf.com) or give Sue a call at 423.304.7017.

## BRIDGE TIP FOR OCTOBER

When partner, a preemptive bidder, doubles an eventual contract (usually a slam contract), it is almost always an alert of a side suit void. Try to find it on opening lead. Do not lead partner's suit! Do not lead a trump!



Eddie Kantar

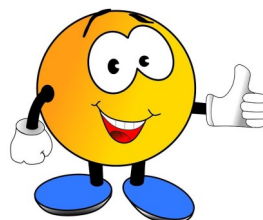
## Cleveland Club News

Face-to-face games for the Cleveland club are still on hold as the Cleveland Senior Center is closed due to Covid-19.

Linda Burns will let players know when games will start back up just as soon as the Center receives clearance and can reopen its doors.



## BRIDGE ETIQUETTE



Dummy should wait for Declarer to indicate the card to be played — even if it is a singleton.

## Did you know?

The Hall of Fame was started by the Bridge World magazine in 1964 with founding members Ely Culbertson, Charles Goren, Harold Vanderbilt, Oswald Jacoby, Milton Work, Sidney Lenz, Waldemar von Zedtwitz, Howard Schenken and Sidney Silodor. When the magazine discontinued its work on the hall, no members were added until the ACBL reestablished the program in 1995. Additional members have been added each year since then. The Hall of Fame has three categories of awards: Open, Blackwood Award and von Zedtwitz Award.

### Open Award

The ACBL Hall of Fame Open Award shall be given annually to living individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record. They shall be elected by electors, as described in Section 5 of the Hall of Fame Operating Procedures.

### Blackwood Award

Given to individuals who have contributed greatly to the game of bridge without necessarily being world class players. Each year one recipient is selected by the Hall of Fame Committee. However, if the Committee believes an additional award is warranted, the Board may vote to allow an additional award for that year.

### von Zedtwitz Award

The ACBL Hall of Fame von Zedtwitz Award shall be given to living or deceased individual(s) who has/have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and has/have an outstanding tournament record but who may not have been in the limelight for a significant period of time. Each year as many as two recipients may be selected by the Hall of Fame Committee whenever deemed appropriate.

Hall of Fame member profiles are available on the ACBL website.

(Taken from the ACBL website, [acbl.org](http://acbl.org), Awards and Recognition.)

