

Library Corner



Bridge for Beginners

by Gary Royce (2022)

The cover of the book promises it is a "complete guide to learn how to play bridge successfully." The author's comments on the back cover conclude by promising the reader will learn enough bridge techniques, tips, and tricks to "amaze" their friends. Anyone promising as much as Royce does before the reader even opens the book, has a lot to live up to. The reader will have to be the judge. Royce begins with a brief history of bridge and bridge FAQs. He then moves to the basics of bridge including rules and an explanation of tricks and trumps. Conventions, the auction, and the play of the hand are among the topics covered. This book, as the title advertises, is for beginners—not for the intermediate or advanced player. But, this is a good place to start for anyone wanting to learn the game—or anyone wanting to help someone else learn the basics of the game.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

August, 2023



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...

KUDOS TO ALL!

Congratulations to everyone for your tremendous support of The Longest Day fundraiser. Over \$15,000 was contributed to help find a cure for Alzheimer's Disease. Thanks again to Mary Robertson as well for coordinating this successful fundraiser!

Thanks to everyone who attended the Wednesday Team Game July 26. We typically average 5 tables on Wednesday, so we decided to "mix it up" and hold a team game. There were 12 Tables. Very exciting. Congratulations to Earl and Susan Rothberger, Mary Robertson and Jane Bricard for finishing first. Also, thanks to Larry and Myra Reneau for directing the game.

Finally, thanks to our educators: Mike Holmes, John Friedl and Dan Chandler. We have three new sets of classes that will start in August and September. Something for everyone, especially for new players with Learn Bridge in a Day starting September 9.



Richard Spangler



This photo was taken thirteen years ago at our second *Battle of the Sexes* team game. The previous year, the women were victorious in the inaugural game, so the male teams were charged up and committed to fight to the bitter end. Their enthusiasm was rewarded with the triumph. This proud and smiling team of four, who called themselves the Jarheads, came out on top. Pictured from left are John Friedl, Mike Sherman, Larry Reneau and Frank Hughes.

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE



Have those hot, hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer put you in the middle of the dreaded summer doldrums? Are you looking for something to elevate your mood? Why not play some bridge? We've made it so easy you have no excuse because if you can't find a partner, we'll find one for you. If you would like to play, just email Chair **Jan Alexander** (janalexander@epbf.com). The Partnership Committee matches players looking for partners, so before you can say "Betty Boop bids badly," you'll be having the time of your life at the bridge table.

Play of the Hand in the 21st Century

Bridge Basics and Beyond (Mike Holmes) and the Chattanooga Bridge Center are offering a face-to-face class "Play of the Hand in the 21st Century." The first class will be on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Classes will run for two hours from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This course is designed for students who want to improve their declarer play. Classes will be divided between discussion and play of sample hands.



If you would like to sign up for the class or are interested in more information, please email Mike Holmes at mdholmes8@yahoo.com or call him at 303.928.9187.

Learn Bridge in a Day



Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a piece by Arnie Meagher on the importance of friendship. Sharing a special interest with a friend can add value and depth to an already solid relationship. We've got the perfect opportunity to familiarize your friends and family with this crazy game we love so much. On Saturday, September 9, Dan Chandler is offering a six-hour course to introduce new players to or reacquaint former players with the fundamentals of bridge. They can test the waters and see if they might find bridge just as challenging and addictive as we do.

The course flyer is on the following page. Materials and lunch are provided. For those who pay in advance, the price is \$50. The price for those who pay at the door is \$60. If you need further information, contact Dan at DanLChan@hotmail.com or 423.400.6999.

Learn Bridge In A Day!

- ❖ Do you want to find out about this game that all of your friends are playing?
- ❖ Did you play bridge in college?
- ❖ Did you take lesson and never find time to play?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions,
we have just the thing for you...

One Day, Five Hours of Bridge

\$50.00 in advance and \$60 at the door

- ❖ Learn the fundamentals.
- ❖ See if this game is for you.
- ❖ Refresh your skills.
- ❖ Join the fun with your friends who play.
- ❖ Exercise your mind.

Join us for a great time!

Lunch plus book will be provided.

Sept. 9TH ❖ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration is limited to the first 60 to reserve a space.

Chattanooga Bridge Center

1103 Dayton Blvd - Chattanooga 37405

North Chattanooga, at the border of Chattanooga & Red Bank.

To register or for more info, email or call **Dan Chandler**

DanLChan@hotmail.com | (423) 400-6999

Leave a message if need be.

Sponsored by

Chattanooga Bridge Center, Unit 206, ACBL

Materials provided by Whirlwind Bridge



New Defense Class

John Friedl will offer a series of eight lessons on bridge defense, beginning August 23, 2023, and continuing through October 11.

Topics to be covered include:

- ♦ Counting (high card points, tricks, distribution, etc.)
- ♦ Opening leads against suit contracts
- ♦ Opening leads against no trump contracts
- ♦ The Rule of Eleven
- ♦ Defensive signals for attitude, count and suit preference
- ♦ Discard systems
- ♦ Second hand play
- ♦ Third hand play
- ♦ Placing high cards and guessing distribution

Lessons will begin at 10:00 AM on Wednesdays and will last 45 minutes to one hour. If you plan to play in the Wednesday afternoon game at the Bridge Center, you may want to bring your lunch.

The fee for the lesson series is \$40, with the entire proceeds going to the Chattanooga Bridge Club. Please bring your payment to the first lesson.

There is no assigned textbook to accompany the lessons. However, there are many excellent books covering different aspects of bridge defense, and you may want to read one or more of them prior to the lessons. Among those books available in our bridge club library are the following:

Bird, David – *Defensive Signaling at Bridge*
Boehm, Augie – *Demon Defense and Demon Doubling*
Kantar, Eddie – *Modern Bridge Defense*
Kantar, Eddie – *Advanced Bridge Defense*
Kantar, Eddie – *Defensive Tips*
Klinger, Ron – *Defending Doubled Contracts*
Lawrence, Mike – *Opening Leads*
Lawrence, Mike – *How to Read Your Opponents' Cards*
O'Connor, Patrick – *Demystifying Defense*

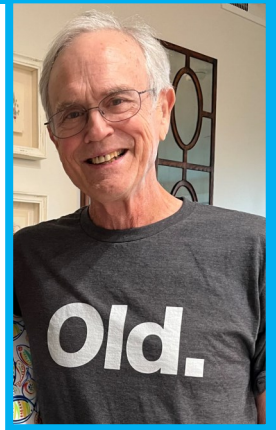
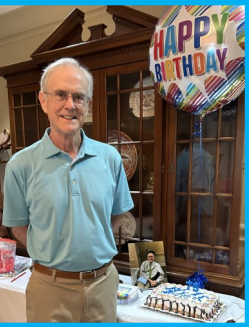


♠♥♣♦ How To Be A Better Partner ♦♣♥♠

Most of us long ago passed that half-way hump in our life. There are days we feel good, and then there are those days that we feel lousy. Maybe our partner is having one of those days and makes an uncharacteristic sharp comment or one that could benefit from a large dose of tact. If this is out of the ordinary, it's best to let it slide. We all have those less than ideal days, and they may contribute to our not playing at our usual top form. We all know how that can translate into a less than stellar mood. Although they can't take the pain or embarrassment away, sympathy and empathy can go a long way to solidifying a good partnership. Just remember your lousy day might be just around the corner.

Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

Last month we paid homage to Dan Chandler with a birthday celebration for his 7.5 decades on this earth. Dan is not only our esteemed Director, but he warms up the room before each game with his humor and sincere appreciation for everyone present. Without a doubt, he's a hoot, and we think the gray tee shirt says it all!



We welcome all of you to come play. Why not make plans to join us at the Mountain City Club. We meet every Thursday at 10:15 A.M. The game starts at 10:30am and we break midday for a delicious buffet lunch. To make it even sweeter, someone usually brings an incredible dessert to share. You can count on the game to be over by around 2:30pm. We have a great time so give us a whirl and contact Susie Crouch at susancrouch54@gmail.com to reserve your spot.



Monday Night CBC Face-to-Face Game

Due to poor attendance, July's Monday night game was cancelled. Unfortunately, there has been limited interest in this evening face-to-face game, and it is for this reason that the Board decided to discontinue it. However, in an effort to be responsive to players' requests, the board will continually assess whether other games or types of games can be added in the future and will keep you posted.



TUESDAY ONLINE 399er GAME

We need your help to build up our 399er online game. Recently, we've been having 4 tables, but it's always more fun (and more points, too) if more tables are in play. If you have fewer than 400 masterpoints, you're eligible to play. Please come and join us Tuesday evening on BBO (bridgebase.com). The game starts at 7:00 P.M., but we ask that you sign on by 6:45 P.M. The game is almost always over by 9:00 P.M. so you can still get a good night's sleep. Don't have anyone to play with? Not a problem. Text or call **Anne Donnovin (423.605.2996)** or **Stewart Lawwill (423.718.0791)**, and they will help you find a partner.



Bridge Etiquette

During the play of the hand, don't be too quick to turn your card over. You have the right to inspect the cards that have been played on the current trick as long as your card remains face up. Once all the cards have been turned over (face down), no one can ask to see the cards that were played.



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 enter the contract in your private score sheets 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.



How would you fill in the blank?

“To me bridge ____.”

We thank Cheryl Whitfield who agreed to fill in the blank this month.

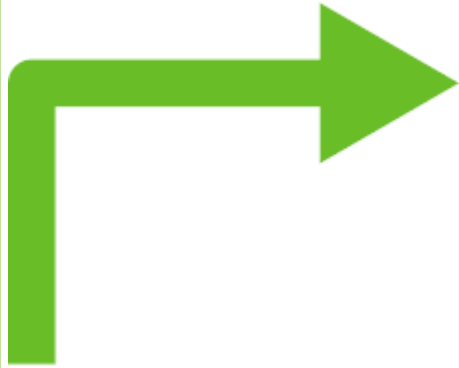
To me bridge has enriched my life in many ways. The first three years I lived in Chattanooga, I was still employed by a unit at Mississippi State University that worked with school districts in the state to equip them with computers and training for their teachers as to how to integrate those computers into the schools' curricula. This was over 20 years ago, at a time when the majority of K-12 teachers were not that comfortable using computers in their classrooms. After moving here, I worked from home, traveling from Chattanooga to Mississippi one week each month to conduct workshops for the teachers. That's not the best way to develop friendships in a new location. A group of ladies in our new Chattanooga neighborhood began to hold monthly meetings with the aim of developing friendships within the neighborhood. Many of the ladies had lived in Chattanooga or the surrounding area for years, but all of us were new to this neighborhood. I attended one of these meetings, and from there began a friendship with Sue Shramko that still thrives today. Sue started a duplicate bridge group in our neighborhood, and then introduced me to the Chattanooga Bridge Center and lessons that Betty Sue Farmer was starting for beginning duplicate players. As they say, the rest is history. Michael Sherman had moved to town not long after we had taken Betty Sue's lessons, and Michael agreed to work with four of us to improve our bridge skills. Were it not for Michael, I doubt I would have continued playing the game. As it is, the game has brought me many new friendships, helped me improve my cognitive skills, and provided a most pleasant way to spend my free time. Sue's introducing me to the game of bridge is a greater gift than she could have imagined. I thank her and my various partners over the years who have helped me improve my game by agreeing to play with me week after week as well as travel to tournaments before COVID came along. I appreciate everyone of you.



Bridge Tip for August

When responding to a takout double, jump the bidding in your long suit with 9-11 "revalued" points. An unbid five-card suit is worth one extra point and an unbid six-card suit is worth three extra points. Do not count points for jacks and queens in suits the opponents have bid.

Eddie Kantar



Arnie's Angle

By Arnie Meagher

Cats Enrich Human Lives

The human-cat relationship dates back at least 10,000 years. Evidence of this relationship first emerged in the Fertile Crescent, a region of the Middle East where farming first developed, cultivating grain that attracted rodents that in turn attracted wild cats. Humans welcomed the wild cat as a protector of crops and food storage.

In Cyprus, bones of a cat buried with its owner were unearthed dating to 7500 BC. In Egypt around 1950 BC cats as protectors of grain became revered as gods. Cat Day dates to March 28, 1384, when King Richard II of England issued a formal edict officially outlawing the eating of cats-reason unknown but probably because cats were suspect of carrying the bubonic plague known as the Black Death, which hit England in the 2nd. half of the 14th. century.



In the Middle Ages cats were used on sailing ships to control rodents. And that is how this type of cat was introduced to the New World aboard such ships as the Santa Maria, Nina, and Pinta. For the most part cats remained outdoor animals until the kitty litter was developed in 1940. Thereafter, cats not only became favorite indoor pets but members of the human family.

In the past 150 years, 50 different cat breeds have been developed with more interesting colorations, giving us today's wide variety of beautiful multi-breed, multi-colored cats. As of 2019, 43 million US households had pet cats and the US also had 58 million feral cats. **International Cat Day was created in 2002 thanks to the International Fund for Animal Welfare and subsequently has been celebrated each year on August 8th.**

Cats are the coolest creatures on our planet. They are independent, adventurous, inquisitive, easy to maintain, and have an amazing physiognomy and the power to heal themselves most of the time. Cats have a sense of personal hygiene, spending up to 4 hours daily preening and grooming their coats. Although cats can make up to 100 different sounds, they are usually quiet and like high perches. They like to watch you, rub up against you, and have you pet them. ☺

Know Your Cats and You Will Enjoy Their Company

Our Sincere Condolences



It is with great sadness that we report that fellow bridge player Dick McGinnis passed away at his home in Alexion Village on July 24, from complications of multiple myeloma. Dick was new to our bridge group, but he was a dedicated student and was committed to improving his bridge skills. You would see him at our Friday face-to-face mentor/mentee game, and he often played online in the Tuesday evening game.

We send our most sincere condolences to his family and friends as they go through this difficult time.

Myra's Box

Hi all,



Let me say first and foremost, thank you for supporting CHATTA-NOOGA BRIDGE!! Many of you have and still do support the majority of the games and that does not go unnoticed. However, sadly, the Monday evening F2F game and the Thursday night (Open) online game are not faring well. Remember, it is Chattanooga Bridge that pays our bills for our building. We have an AMAZING facility that is perfect for our

needs in every way. Thank you to the current Board and all previous Boards for making this a priority!!

Sadly, after only 2 months, the Board has decided to cancel the Monday evening F2F game, effective immediately. So NO August Monday night game. We may try again for an in person night game, maybe on a different night. If you want a night game, please contact the Board with ideas. I have - because I want a night game.

Next, as to the fate of Thursday evening game....We owe a notice to our great Director who supports Chattanooga Bridge in MANY ways, Nancy Watkins. Some of you may not be aware but Nancy was badly injured last month in a fall. She was hospitalized for about 3 weeks. I helped her during that time and directed and did not play (as per our policy). But with that aside, this game has trickled down to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 tables and some weeks not enough for a game. The Board has decided that we will put ALL on notice for the month of August to support this game. If we do not meet criteria, we will cancel it for the future. Remember, winter is coming...you might want to support Chattanooga Bridge online. Also of STRONG NOTE, we DO NOT get ANY MONEY from BBO games (that are now \$3.99). Also, BBO points are colorless, not black. Our Virtual game pays black points. We also do NOT get ANY MONEY from Knoxville or other club's virtual games.

So for the month of August, we need the following to keep this game going:

1. Register by 6:45. You do not have to stay logged on. Just re-login in by 6:55 for the game to start on time. Make sure your partner has a GREEN dot by their name.
2. Four tables or game is cancelled.

In parting, thank you again for supporting Chattanooga Bridge,

Myra

Nooga East Bridge Club

Have you been looking for a great way to kick start your week? As you might expect, we've got the answer. Every Monday at 12:30 P.M., there's a bridge game at Christ United Methodist Church located at 8645 East Brainerd Road across from Hurricane Creek Shopping Center. You are asked to arrive no later than 12:15 P.M. so the game can begin promptly. We are a very welcoming, fun group, and we are always looking for new players of all levels. Interested? Just email noogabridgeeast@gmail.com to make a reservation. Need help finding a partner or have a question? You can text or call Sue Riddle (423.509.3583) or Sharon Lewis (423.240.5360).



Watch your email for food and fun days. If you are not receiving our emails, please let us know by emailing us at the above address. Hope to see you there.

Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, we have an online Mentor/Mentee game at 7 P.M. on BBO. If you are interested in playing, let **Anne Donnovin** know (aadonnovin@bellsouth.net). She matches partners and sends out assignments with plenty of time to develop a convention card. You are asked to sign on to BBO (bridgebase.com) by 6:45 P.M. We guarantee lots of fun and great competition. This month the games are on August 14 and 28. If you are a regular, but have a conflict, Anne asks that you let her know so she does not include you in the August assignments.



This is the perfect opportunity for more seasoned players to provide on-the-spot, useful, constructive suggestions to help our newer players develop their game. Everyone has a chance to come out on top, so it might be you earning those masterpoints.

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Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

August 18 is the 3rd Friday of the month and the date of this month's face-to-face Mentor/Mentee game. This game is always fun, but it's even better in August since we'll have a team game.

There's a sign-up sheet at the CBC, so be sure to sign up early as this is one of our most popular games. If you can't sign-up in person, text or call **Sandy Cervantes** at 423.315.1953 by Monday, August 14, if you would like to play.

Our July winners were:

North/South

First	Cheryl Whitfield/Betsy Caldwell
Second	Earl Rothberger/Mary Robertson
Third	Sue Shramko/Beverly Kutz

East/West

Leigh Broadway/Lou Mucciolo
Sharon Lewis/Georgia McCravy
Larry Reneau/Jane Bricard

Oh, What Fun We Had

If you missed our Eight-is-Enough team game last month, you missed out on a ton of fun. In fact, the players were on pins and needles through the last round waiting to see who would come out on top. Congratulations to the winners who pulled out an exciting come-from-behind victory. Way to go!

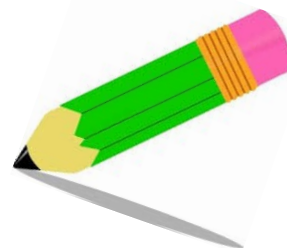


First Place: Earl Rothberger, Susan Rothberger, Jane Bricard, Mary Robertson

Second Place: Sue Shramko, Sandy Cervantes, Richard Spangler, Iris Abelson

Third Place: Donna Cart, Doug Cart, Bert Shramko, Sandy Boone

dates to Remember



August 4-6
Friday-Sunday

Oswald/Palmer Middle Georgia Sectional
Macon, GA

August 10-12
Thursday-Saturday

Volunteer State Summer Sectional
Knoxville, TN

August 14 & 28
Mondays

Online Mentor/Mentee Game
7:00 P.M. BBO

August 18
Friday

Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Team Game
Noon CBC

August 18-19
Friday-Saturday

Intermediate/Newcomer Sectional
Birmingham, AL

August 23-26
Wednesday-Saturday

Summer Fun Sectional
Nashville, TN

August 27
Sunday

Special Pairs Game—Fried Chicken
12:30 P.M. Lunch/1:00 P.M. Game CBC



Hats off to...

For August, we would like to recognize **Ann Keown**. As you know, Ann coordinates our Ambassador Program. Initially this program was only offered a couple of days each week, but thanks to Ann's dedication and effort almost every game has an ambassador on hand. It's not an easy to coordinate ambassador availability every month, especially during the summer and at holiday times. We ask a lot of our ambassadors when we ask that they show up for the game with no guarantee that they will play. Please support this program by volunteering to be an ambassador or coming to the game even if you don't have a partner. That way, the ambassador will get a chance to play. Thanks to Ann for her support of the Club.

August Special Game

Did You Say Chicken?

On Sunday, August 27, the Chattanooga Bridge Club will have a special pairs game. The club is providing yummy fried chicken and asks that you bring a side or dessert to share. We have posted a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the club.

Be sure to mark your calendar now so you don't miss this game as it promises to be a "finger lick'in good time!" Lunch is at 12:30 P.M., and the game will start at 1:00 P.M. See you there.





One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

Upside Down or Standard?

Over the past couple of years I have written several columns on defensive signaling at bridge. As your game advances and your defensive skills improve, it becomes increasingly important that you be able to signal to your partner on defense whether you like or do not like a particular suit (attitude), and also how many cards you hold in a particular suit (count). And since you can't do both at the same time, it's important to know when your signal is meant to show attitude and when it is meant to give count.

There are times when we want to signal our attitude on a suit that our partner leads. Other times we may want to signal which side suit we want partner to lead when she takes a trick. And there are other times when our attitude is either obvious or not important, but we want to tell partner how many cards we have in a suit so that our partner will have a more complete picture of declarer's hand that will help uncover the best defensive strategy.

The bottom left corner of the convention card includes boxes to check indicating whether we use Standard or Upside-Down signals for attitude and count against either a No Trump or a suit contract. In Standard signaling we play a high card first and then a low card to show an even number of cards in that suit (count) and we play a high card to show a positive attitude and a low card to show a negative attitude. In Upside-Down signaling we do the opposite – a low card first shows an even number while a high-low echo shows an odd number, and a low card shows a positive attitude and a high card is negative.

For many years Standard signals reigned in the bridge world, but over time the expert players realized that having to play a high card to show a positive attitude would sometimes cost a trick, whereas playing a low card rarely did so. Hence the switch among most experts to Upside-Down signals for attitude. Likewise for count signals, playing a high card first to show an even number could give declarer a hint as to how to play that suit, whereas a low card doesn't disclose valuable information about the rest of the holding. Of course, playing a high card to show an odd number can sometimes be detrimental to the defense as well, but that is less often the case when you hold three (or five) cards and can play the middle one first, followed by a lower one.

Now comes the question of whether to mix or match these signals. The choice of most experts is to play Upside-Down attitude **and** count. This can take some getting used to if you are switching over from playing Standard attitude and count, because while it is easy to recognize a low card as showing a positive attitude when the signal calls for attitude, it isn't always easy to recognize (or to remember) that a low card shows an even number when the signal calls for count.

I was reminded of this problem when I played for the first time with a new partner at a bridge club in Fort Myers, Florida. He told me he preferred to use Upside-Down count and attitude signals and he was so happy to have been paired up with me because most of the players at that club didn't like to use Upside-Down signals. Well, we weren't through the first three-board round when I found myself on opening lead and plunked down the ace (from ace-king) and saw partner's eight appear. Assuming he didn't like the suit, I switched to another suit. Later when I regained the lead I led my king and saw his deuce. Certain that he had three cards in the suit (high-low echo equals an odd number), I switched once again. After the hand was over, he jumped all over me: "Partner, I gave you a high-low to show a doubleton, why didn't you continue?" When I explained that Upside-Down attitude signaling required that he play the deuce if he wanted me to continue, we agreed that henceforth we'd use Standard signals.

Continued on the following page.

One Last Thing...continued

One thing I have noticed is that a growing number of players seem to be choosing to play Upside-Down attitude but Standard count signals. I can't figure out why this should be the case, but it is a fact not just at our bridge club but at other clubs where I have played recently. In my experience it can lead to confusion when it is not clear to the person giving the signal whether he should be showing attitude or count, and if you mix the two you might be confusing your partner (as with my newfound partner in Fort Myers).



If I am on lead and I lead an Ace and see an eight from partner, then I lead the king and partner plays the deuce, does partner have a doubleton or a third low card? Was the eight a discouraging signal, or the start of an echo showing count (two)? Sometimes I can tell based on what I see in the dummy and from declarer, but not always. Being consistent with the same approach to both count and attitude signals alleviates this problem in most cases.

If you are making the transition from Standard to Upside-Down signals, my suggestion is that you use the same for both attitude and count. It is much easier to remember that an Upside-Down attitude signal is positive, and to recognize that when partner plays a low card. The Upside-Down count signal will give you some trouble at first, but as you become more used to using it and seeing it from partners and opponents, it will sink in.

Two more caveats: 1) if you think your partner is paying attention to your cards and needs to know the count in a particular suit, don't just automatically pull out your lowest card every time the suit is played, but rather think about what it means when you play that card; and 2) make sure when you sit down with your partner before the round to go over your convention card agreements that you spend some time talking about signals and that you both agree on how you will use them. You'll find this is one of the best usages of your time.



National Friendship Day

National Friendship Day occurs each year on the first Sunday in August and in 2023 it occurs on August 6, and it affords the opportunity to celebrate our relationship with friends. If you ever wondered what to say to your best friend, here are a few thoughts that may stimulate your thinking:

To My Best Friend

Let me tell you what your friendship does for me.
It improves my self-esteem and my confidence in the future.
It helps me cope with stress, depression, disappointments and losses.
And as it makes no demands and accepts me as I am,
Your friendship helps me to become a better me. ©

A Thousand Thanks!

Arnie Meagher