

Carolyn Wiley & Marilyn McLaughlin –



The Two Remaining Members Of the Dream Team!

Two women with diverse backgrounds found each other at the bridge club back in the early 2000s. Marilyn, a driving school instructor, former realtor, and a former bridge club director in Vail, was paired with Bev Taylor. Carolyn, a former Peach farmer and caregiver, was paired with Fran Piva. The four were top competitors at the time. One day when Carolyn and Fran won the local game, Marilyn said to Bev, “They should be our Swiss Team partners.” For the next few years, the four traveled to tournaments in Durango and Montrose and other places and were soon dubbed, “The Dream Team” because they would routinely win or take second place wherever they went.

Carolyn is a Sapphire Life Master and Marilyn is a Gold Life Master. Carolyn was the Ace of Clubs winner in 2024. Today, Carolyn has approximately 3,900 ACBL points, ranks fourth in the 3,500 to 5,000 point-range, and advanced to Gold Life Master and holds approximately 2,500 points.

Today Marilyn runs the Bookcliffs Bridge Club (playing in Carolyn’s converted garage). Great players and dear friends play there together weekly. For Marilyn and many others who play, bridge is what brings them joy.

The two are each other’s biggest fans in life. Marilyn “admires Carolyn more than any other woman she’s known.” She praises Carolyn for her unlimited strength, her strong family bonds, and the many friendships she nurtures. She also appreciates her ability to play any kind of cards. Carolyn holds her friendship with Marilyn very dear, noting that she “was there when I suffered a major illness.” Marilyn brought assistive equipment, made visits and talked on the phone with her during her prolonged recovery. Carolyn also admires Marilyn for her determination and perseverance and the way she nurtures friendships with others. Additionally, she loves Marilyn’s sense of humor (most of the time). Marilyn has a tendency to say provocative things, which can bring levity to all kinds of situations.



This photo was taken by Jean Paradis, August 12, 2025