

GRAPEVINE - DECEMBER 2021



EDITORS NOTE

It is the last month of 2021! It has been quite a ride this year as we navigated through more restrictions, but also the easing up and getting a semblance of our lives back.

We are often told “we really like that we know who directs the RHBC games”. Players say “it’s easy if I know whom to call if we have a problem”. Based on your feedback we are publishing our director’s names; contact numbers and the ‘usual’ games they direct so you ‘have the information at your fingertips.

Cathy or David Tubb
(905) 640-9934 Wed

Claude Gannon
(647) 868-3205 Tue Ladies

Izhar Haque
(289) 716-5095 Thu, Sat

Susan Beals
(416) 433-2292 Mon, Tues (0-300), Sun (All)

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

We are happy be celebrating Christmas with you online! Christmas falls on a Saturday which is a game day for RHBC. We talked about it and felt that there are many who celebrate on a different day, a different way, or not at all, so we are going to run a game! However, it will be a little different – only one game, 18-21 boards, 2-hours of fun! Game Time: 12:30

Now, you might be thinking “what about New Years”? Yes, it will be ‘games as usual’. We will run both our games on Saturday January 1st to ring in 2022 with the players!

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MORE SAD NEWS

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to three players who passed away in November –
Virginia (Jinny) Hunter (jhunter20) passed away after a long battle with cancer. Her son told us “The doctors shrunk the tumour and thought Mom had at least 5 more years”. It wasn’t meant to be. Jinny leaves behind her devoted husband Bill and loving son Sandy. She will be missed by all whose lives she touched!

Marta Vigneux (martur) passed away suddenly; she was a diamond life master who played out of the Granite Club, but she faithfully played in our Ladies game. She was also a life member at Toronto Ladies Golf Club. Marta leaves behind many friends and family and will be missed by her bridge partners.

Joseph Seigel After spending most of the last year in the hospital having surgery and many procedures, treatments, and tests, his body gave up and he can rest in peace. In accordance with Joe’s wishes, he will be cremated and there will not be a funeral. A celebration of life/reception will be held at a later time, probably in the spring.

GENERAL HEALTH INFORMATION

As you know the government is now releasing a COVID Booster shot. You are eligible if you are 24 weeks (168 days) or more from the date of your 2nd dose and you are over 70 years of age. To book your booster here is the link for York Region:

https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/covid-19/covid19vaccinationclinics/04covid19vaccinationclinics/!ut/p/z1/jZHfk5owEMf_lj54bzEJIITOOB20VwFPvR89pXlhQgiQE4kNkRb_-nqnL525s92Hnf3x3d35zEIKE0gb1smSGakaVp_yH9RNo2AWheEcXSuHTFGAVkFseQTd-hhu3gToAwsQpP8zf0VAr6-P_3XgRGDpxXRRQrpnpgKyKRRMuOpkDrB_ibDfMc5l84bNa9lI3sIEOR83N5D-fXn2RBwUrWMvWOMVciL7lRAsxw3xFMUoXBEUffPuR19jiNHcugiuw5W1ys5_CJrMJicKLQghhR4e9KlcGbNvPw_QAPVKb4ed0EajpmSIGHK1G6BzPEClaisWHKi9aMCZ4ctW9ONsZLMccwEEFi5wSMYAc3MMRM6LYpQXxBP2DVeNEb_NWPRxm1nLKp_VXSYjN5rG4dM6kMXDTZryluVVnb60r95s03Rc5lpuF-2SeT_8rs0-i2mv7x8997DxqfVQzm9JLlrRMU_FwC7tutYNvYlQKBky57PjvJ4fk98Eq1Bibv8cL97jk53k386GVUd3fBpz_MWfWd/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/#.YnWH7pOnIU

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CLUB CORNER

OUR F2F GAMES ARE BACK! Our first game was played on 11/25 @ our new 'home', Rouge Woods Community Centre. We were thrilled with the reception and hearing from players "I'll be there"! Lots of excitement and we had 6 tables for our first game with many more committed for the upcoming games!

To recap the highlights of the game for our players -

1. The player fee is waived until the New Year, that's right free games!
2. All games are championship games (upgraded masterpoints)
3. The 15 min lessons are back (Dec 9th)
4. 'Welcome Back Luncheon' (Dec 16th) – Please Register, contact Susan or Claude, we need numbers.

ONLINE GAMES: While we realize that players may want to play F2F, they may have limitations and not be able to play, from health, family health, new partnerships and so much more. Therefore, we have discussed it and we will continue to host our online games and we are happy to report that they continue to be very healthy and well supported and the price remains 3 BB\$.

OUR COMMUNITY: As a not-for-profit organization we've looked at ways to give back to our community and we are proud to announce that RHBC has donated \$1,000.00 EACH to the Richmond Hill Food Bank and Hill House Hospice! Our club has always supported the Food Bank and this year we looked for another charity and felt the Hospice was a great way to honour all those players we've lost since 2019 – Sandra Wong, Peter Auciello, Donald Chiang, Ron Stokal, Martin Taylor, Brian Cowen, Jinny Hunter, Marta Vigneux and Joe Seigel.

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MORE QUESTIONS, A FEW ANSWERS

Question: UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY I ASK FOR AN UNDO?

Answer: The director will allow an UNDO only when –

- a) It is a Bidding MISCLICK, not a Play MISCLICK
- b) No unauthorized information has been given, either by an opponent's bid or by partners' response to the MISCLICK. This is why it's imperative that the bidding stop as soon as possible
- c) The person who MISCLICKED has not bid a 2nd time
- d) Play has not started

Question: MY ROBOT ACCEPTED A TRANSFER, I DIDN'T THINK THEY DID, WHY?

Answer: We saw this happen too! Robots are supposed to play standard; however, we were given a revised update.

- a) A robot will accept a transfer, to the minors as well
- b) A robot doesn't bid a transfer, it bids naturally

There is no guarantee how the robot will behave, but this seems to be what we have observed recently. Our best advice; try to play with a person, not a bot.

Question: I KEEP HEARING THE TERM FREE-AGENT, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS?

Answer: Very simply put, a free agent is an online player who

- (a) Is not a member of ACBL;
- (b) Did not play in a sanctioned game in 2019;
- (c) Joined ACBL, but are not linked to a club.

These players are the 'free agents'. They have no club, no ties to a club, they are 'free', and therefore ACBL allows them to play anywhere, in any club game without impacting that club's guest policy.

Remember: clubs are only allowed so many 'guests' in their games. ACBL changed the registration process so that if a club member registers with a guest the guest player will not be counted as a guest. The same applies to 'free agents' who register in a game with a guest, they are treated as members for that game.

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PLAYERS CORNER

We've always known that we not only have great bridge players, but also very community-minded players in our club. It became very apparent after the November Grapevine was published and the emails started to come asking –

Do you have a link so I can make a donation?

Will they take masks? What can I do to help? Can I donate directly to them?

We wanted to share with you what happened after one of our players read about the two charities in the Grapevine. A player who works with LUG read about the charities and immediately contacted us about donating cloth face masks, 3 per pack. The hospice, unfortunately, cannot accept cloth masks, but the food bank was thrilled to learn they would be the benefactor of more than 50 packages of masks for the families they serve in Richmond Hill.

LUG is a women's fashion and lifestyle brand, headquartered in Markham, Ontario. LUG believes that "when you are organized, you can enjoy more of life's bright & colorful moments!"

They do so much more with their LUG CARES program. One of their immediate goals was to help keep our families, friends, and loved ones safe during the pandemic and to increase the availability of masks for those who need them most, LUG shifted some of their production lines in April 2020 to produce face masks and hair caps.

By the end of 2021, LUG will have donated thousands of stay-safe kits and masks to hospitals, food banks, women's shelters, schools, and front-line workers in other organizations. If you want to check out their website, you can see the types of products they offer here is the website: <https://www.luglife.com/>

For those who have asked, and we are not suggesting anyone should donate, it is a very personal choice, but if you wish to make a donation to either the Richmond Hill Food Bank or Hill House Hospice directly, the links are below.

Richmond Hill Food Bank

<https://www.richmondhillcommunityfoodbank.ca/>

Hill House Hospice

<https://hillhousehospice.com/>

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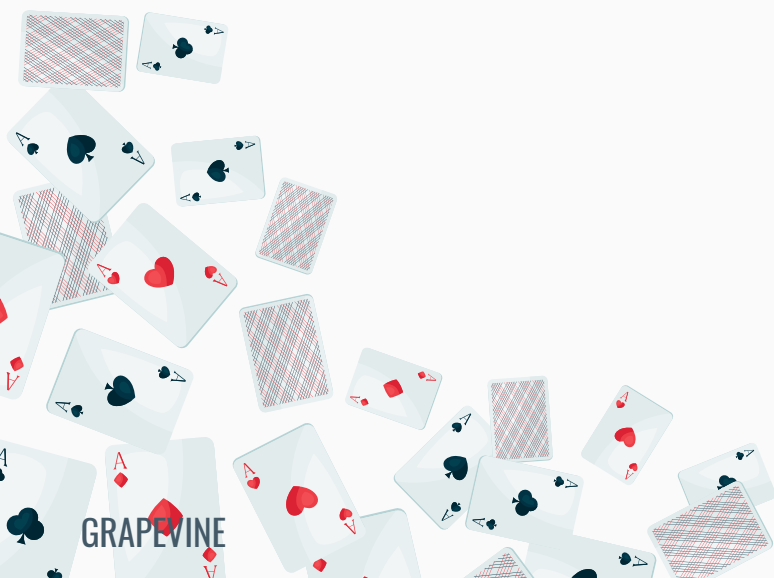
A CHRISTMAS SHOW Submitted by Marshall Egelnick

We just learned that one of our players, Marshall Egelnick, sings in a men's acapella choir, The Toronto Northern Lights, one of the top such choruses in North America, having won many medals including an international gold! They have been unable to perform the past two years due to COVID, but are now going back to the stage with a Christmas Show. This year they have a special guest, Canada's very own tenor, John McDermott.

Marshall wishes to share that there are only two performances, 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM on Saturday, December 11th at the newly renovated Metropolitan United Church at 56 Queen Street East. It's a short walk from the subway and has lots of parking nearby. Strict Covid protocols will be observed.

For tickets or information please visit the following website and click on the banner or go to Upcoming Events.

<https://www.northernlightschorus.com/>



MORE BRIDGE TRIVIA Pt. 1 (A FEW FOR OUR NEWER PLAYERS)

1. Which player is the opening leader?
 - a) Declarer
 - b) Whoever has the 2 of clubs
 - c) The dealer
 - d) The player to declarer's left
2. In most natural systems an opening bid of 1NT is made with a hand that is
 - a) 11-14 points, balanced
 - b) Balanced, points do not matter
 - c) 15-17 points, balanced
 - d) 12-19 points, balanced
3. What holding is illegal to open NT?
 - a) 16 points, singleton 2 of spades
 - b) 16 points, balanced
 - c) 17 points, singleton K of spades
 - d) 15 points, two doubletons

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PHARMACY COVID TESTING Submitted by Judy Hackett

Think about this, the Ontario Government is proposing that symptomatic COVID patients march through local pharmacies to a private area, then lower their masks to get tested for COVID. At the very least you would not want to be shopping in pharmacies where this is taking place. Some pharmacists are threatening to quit over this, think of the risk exposure.

Our local drug store is a key part of our daily lives - a place we trust and feel safe. Let's keep it that way!

It's a place where your mom and dad or grandparents get their medications safely, where you shop for a card or cosmetics.

It is NOT the place where anyone should be exposed to active cases of COVID-19. This is best accomplished in Health Unit organized stand-alone locations.

Here's the link for more information and petition:

https://you.leadnow.ca/petitions/stop-symptomatic-covid-testing-at-ontario-pharmacies?share=40bd3aff-3c77-4107-8717-c426253149f6&source=email-share-button&utm_source=email



MORE BRIDGE TRIVIA Pt. 2 (A FEW FOR OUR NEWER PLAYERS)

4. You play Stayman, you opened 1NT, partner bid 2C, you don't have a 4-card major, what do you bid?

- a) 2NT
- b) 3C
- c) 2D
- d) Pass

5. Which Marx Brother, known for his philandering and exaggerated Italian Accent was an avid bridge player?

- a) Groucho Marx
- b) Chico Marx
- c) Harpo Marx
- d) Zeppo Marx

6. What is the minimum HCP required to open in 1st or 2nd chair at the 1-level?

- a) Points don't matter, I can open any hand at the 1-level
- b) 11+ points
- c) 8+ points
- d) 13+ points

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TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. (D) In bridge, the side that makes the final bid becomes the offense while the other side is the defense. The offensive player who first named the suit of the final bid becomes the declarer and the defender to the left chooses a card from their hand as the opening lead.
2. (C) 15-17 balanced is the standard used for opening NT
3. (A) You cannot open NT with a singleton unless it's an Ace, King, or Queen.
4. (C) A response of 2D to partners Stayman asks shows no 4-card major
5. (B) Chico, the eldest of the Marx brothers, was born Leonard Marx and was nicknamed "Chico" as short for "Chick-o" due to his inability to resist a pretty face. He apparently lost lots of money offset gambling on bridge, other card games, horses, and sports betting. His final on-screen appearance, was, oddly enough, on an episode of "Championship Bridge", a TV program showing people playing bridge, and hosted by bridge expert Charles Goren. Chico and his partner lost by a large margin.
6. (C) 8+ points. You cannot open a hand with less than 8 HCP in the 1st or 2nd chair at the 1-level, distribution does not count. If you open 'lite' with 8-10 points consistently, "this is a partnership agreement and you must alert





MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS! WISHING YOU A
HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SEE YOU IN 2022, VIRUTALLY OR F2F!!

