



The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Member News

April, 2026

Judy Smith

By Nancy Tessier



Judy's father told his 3 sons and daughter they would "a) get good grades b) take up a sport and c) play an instrument". And Judy has been an over-achiever in all three, becoming a physician, a master fencer and pianist.

At age 13 she took up fencing when a French master came to Louisville, Kentucky to start teaching the sport at his Salae (fencing studio). After winning the adult and youth championship at age 16, and a move to Delaware, she was scouted by the Penn State team and received a "full ride" scholarship for college. Their team won a national championship. Yes, dad, she played a sport VERY WELL. She was invited to the Olympic trials but the two year training interruption of medical school was not the path she chose.

As a sophomore biology major, one day walking across campus she noticed a posting for the MCAT test (medical entrance exam). And she became a doctor. Yes, dad, she got VERY good grades. In her 2nd year of medical school, her first "rotation" in clinical studies was surgery. She decided the day of her first surgical observation this was the field she would pursue.

Quality and quantity of life was her goal saving lives as an oncology (cancer) surgeon. She was also instrumental in starting the Spectrum Health Cancer Center where consolidated care for patients was primary. (Seeing all doctors in one visit and having an assigned nurse helping the patient navigate their care from

start to finish). Holistic approaches such as tai chi, acupuncture and medication were also used to promote patient care.

Now Judy serves on our bridge board, enjoys golf and tennis, and yes with over 600 master points, plays bridge. Dad should have added “d) play a card game and have fun.” And if you see her here around, you can ask her what happened to the piano.

Alzheimer's Event Update

By Nancy Tessier

On March 8 we celebrated the first Alzheimer’s bridge game fund raiser of the year at Seabreeze Recreation Center. Our generous donors raised \$6,217 for the spring game. Two more events are planned for the year and an anonymous donor has pledged matching funds of \$7,500 (and we are almost at that goal). Thank you to everyone who participated in the fun day. Our club showed its heart by supporting this worthwhile cause.



Education Update

Note: All classes are held at the O'Dell recreation center at 9 a.m. - 10:45 with a \$5 fee per class.

Hand Evaluation Bergen Style

On Tuesday April 7 and 14, Andy Sloan will be presenting Hand Evaluation Bergen Style, and a Hand Evaluation practice session. You will learn to evaluate the value of a hand based on more than just high card points. Concepts will be reinforced with a practice session.

Bridge Club Cruise

By Nancy Tessier

On March 15, 59 lucky Villagers headed to the Tampa port to board the Celebrity Constellation for a week of bridge with two sessions held every day. Yes, 12 chances to win those master points and have fun with our fellow travelers. Ports of Call included Key West (a bit rainy and windy), Bimini (where we could not dock due to rough seas) and Nassau, Bahamas. Marilyn and Jon Williams did a wonderful job of coordinating this adventure. The next cruise is scheduled for October, and there will probably be one next Spring.



Rank Changes

Congratulations to those who have achieved a new ACBL ranking as of February and March, 2026!

Diamond Life Master

Andy Sloan

Ruby Life Master

Diana McPeak
Arthur Franz

Silver Life Master

Mike Kiernan

Bronze Life Master

Marilyn Allison

Life Master

Marilyn Allison

Carolyn Campbell

Adv. NABC Master

Nora Shang
Linda Briggs

Virginia Stayman

NABC Master

Joe Kosowicz
Dixie Bourke

Sharon Swofford

Regional Master

Selena Belisle
Leah Martin
Sandra Woodson
Dean Teagno

Susan E. Kelley
Tom Martin
Geraldine Brock

Sectional Master

Ria Aniess
Deborah Simpson
Mike Gilbert
Scott Tirrell

Kathy Ferrante
Laurie Fox
Kathy Hanlon

Club Master

Brian Bezrutch

Sally Snelson

Ron Wette

Merle White

MaryEllen Hickey

Robert Kushner

Junior Master

Patty Fieldsteel

Nancy Hawald

Edwin Henn

David Herron

Gail Kelly

Harry Oslislo

Debbie Roberts

Harish Sood

Mark Fredrick

Carol Harless

Judy Hayden

Larry Ivan

Beth Widell

Interesting Bridge Quotes

Warren Buffet - "Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day."

Martina Navratilova - "Many games provide fun, but Bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but Bridge prevents the rust from forming."

Oscar Wilde - "Old Bridge players never die; they just lose their finesse."

Bill Gates - "Bridge is one of the last games in which the computer is not better."

Alfred Sheinwold - "One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice playing atrocious contracts."

Anonymous – "Technically, the rules of bridge fit on a napkin. But the Bidding System – the secret code you use to talk to your partner – is basically the entire Encyclopedia Britannica, but with more arguing."

Condolences

The club is saddened to learn of the passing of the following:

John Mike Danich, Jr., husband of **Ellen Danich**, passed away in February. The obituary may be found here: https://obituaries.baldwincremation.com/john-danich-jr?_ga=2.65950187.451441721.1773331070-332236708.1773330926

Raymond Skelton, father of **Patricia Skelton**, passed away in March. The obituary may be found here: https://obituaries.baldwincremation.com/raymond-skelton?_ga=2.196555113.451441721.1773331070-332236708.1773330926

Wildwood Soup Kitchen Update

By Jennie Cleary

Back in January, we reported that the Wildwood Soup Kitchen was facing some difficulties. The church where it had been housed for many years, had placed new stipulations in their lease which was up for renewal, including a doubling of the rent, reduced building access hours, and decreased available space.

We are happy to learn that the Soup Kitchen has been able to purchase their own facility, and will be able to relocate to this new facility by May or June. The soup kitchen serves over 156,000 meals a year for those eating in the dining room and those who receive delivery of meals. The folks that are served may be homeless, the working or non-working poor, or just lonely people. The ages vary from children to adult seniors. Meals are delivered to those who cannot come to the soup kitchen. Many of these home-bound or shut-ins may only eat the one meal that is delivered. Every person who comes to the soup kitchen is welcomed, without regard to race, sex, age, color, religion, national origin, handicap or income.

The Easter Bunny

By Nancy Tessier



This folklore figure originated with German Lutherans dating back to 1572. Similar to Christmas's "naughty or nice" list, the hare evaluated children for Easter goodies. An Easter egg represented the tomb of Jesus, from which he emerged on the third day. Eggs were not eaten during lent in medieval times, as well as meat and animal products. Eggs were dyed to represent the blood of Christ. The Pennsylvania Dutch brought this protestant custom to the United States in the 18th century...and children still enjoy the Easter egg hunt today.

Book Review - Only the Beautiful, by Susan Meissner

By Buck Buchanan

It has been extremely difficult for me to write a review of this book. However, it has been one of the best books I've ever read. It is extremely readable. It deals with eugenics, which is the selective breeding of people. It talks about Nazi Germany and their T-4 program, which is the forced abortion and sterilization of young women. Women who are mentally or physically flawed are forcibly aborted or even murdered.

What I didn't know is that the Nazi program was modeled after a US eugenics program that was begun in the 1920s and continued until the early '60s. Literally thousands of young American women were forcibly aborted and sterilized.

The major character is a young woman in California, starting in 1938. When she loses her parents in an accident, sixteen-year-old Rosanne is taken in by the owners of the vineyard where she has lived her whole life as the vinedresser's daughter. She moves into Celine and Truman Calvert's spacious house with a secret, however—Rosie sees colors when she hears sound. She promised her mother she'd never reveal her little-understood ability to anyone, but the weight of her isolation and grief prove too much for her. Driven by her loneliness she not only breaks the vow to her mother, but in a desperate moment lets down her guard and ends up pregnant. Banished by the Calverts, Rosanne believes she is bound for a home for unwed mothers. But she soon finds out she is not going to a home of any kind, but to a place that seeks to forcibly take her baby – and the chance for any future babies – from her.

You want to know what happens next? Well, you gotta read the book! You won't regret it. Thanks to Bobbie Meyers, who recommended this book to me.

The Lighter Side

By Mary Jo Johnson

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her eighties. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all. One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea.

As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cut-glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat. The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist. "miss Beatrice", he said, "I wonder if you would tell me a out this?" pointing to the bowl.

"Oh, yes," she replied, "Isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter!"

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? A significant day or experience in your life? What's the one place you'd like to see? A special birthday or anniversary coming up? Please send your articles to Jennie Cleary at [**wkc44@comcast.net**](mailto:wkc44@comcast.net), or Nancy Tessier at [**NancyBrooks2020@gmail.com**](mailto:NancyBrooks2020@gmail.com) Nancy and Jennie are also able to help with write-ups if you send us the basics.

See the October 2026 Bridge Cruise flyer on the next page.

Marilyn Williams tells us: the travel agent has now sent this to other past clients, as the response from the VDBC has been poor. Yes, the cruise is a long way off, but the room only holds 16-17 tables, so if you are interested, you might want to make your reservation. The deposit is fully refundable until May 15th.



Go Away Travel
BRIDGE CRUISE SPECIALISTS

GO AWAY TRAVEL PRESENTS:

THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE PLAYERS SECTIONAL AT SEA

October 18-25, 2026

Please join us as we sail round-trip Tampa to Key West and the Bahamas on the Celebrity Summit. You will have the opportunity to play and earn Silver Points two times every day in a card-playing area reserved exclusively for our group.



**ITINERARY: Tampa * Day at Sea * Day at Sea * Key West
* Bimini * Nassau * Day at Sea * Tampa**



SPECIAL OFFER ONLY FOR RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES:

**THE FIRST 50 TO SIGN-UP WILL GET
FREE ROUND-TRIP TRANSFERS TO TAMPA!**

*Prices are per person, based on either single or double occupancy and include the following: All taxes and fees, travel protection, bridge games, classic beverage package, basic Wi-Fi & gratuities.

CAT	CABIN	DOUBLE	SINGLE
A2	AQUA	\$2,675	\$4,750
C1	CONCIERGE	\$2,525	\$4,400
V1	VERANDA	\$2,375	\$4,075
O1	OUTSIDE	\$1,850	\$3,050
I2	INSIDE	\$1,650	\$2,700

**CALL & BOOK NOW! Contact John Sobel at Go Away Travel
PHONE: 954-349-2800 | EMAIL: BestBridgeAtSea@GoAwayTrav.com**

Government taxes and fees, travel protection, bridge fees, classic beverage package, basic Wi-Fi and gratuities are included. Valid passport required. Deposit of \$500 per cabin is refundable until the final payment due date of May 15, 2026. Cancellations made between May 16-July 11, 2026 will be subject to a 50% penalty. Cancellations made on or after July 12, 2026 will be subject to a 100% penalty. If you do not reserve your cabin from Go Away Travel, you must register with us prior to the cruise. A \$900 per person non-refundable bridge fee will apply.