



The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Member News

June, 2026

Notes from the Editor: The Villages Sectional is coming up this month, as well as our Alzheimer's event. Please note, we have some very exciting changes regarding the Alzheimer's event – check out the article below. We also enjoy meeting players Wanda Rainbolt and Jim and Linda Hansel. Buck has written a book review for us, and Nancy has included some June trivia. Gary Segal will be doing some public speaking in and around The Villages, information is below. Our condolences go to family and friends of Lynn Patterson, a longtime VDBC member, who passed away in April. We also have a correction – there was a typo in last month's bio of Marilyn Schmidt. She was a Life Master when she moved to The Villages. The club is grateful to Marilyn for directing the newcomer game for so many years. Wishing everyone a happy June.

Meet the Players

By Nancy Tessier



Wanda Rainbolt. Miss Wanda always has a warm smile when she greets you. Hailing from Western Nebraska, her Ph.D led her to a career as a professor of Kinesiology at Cal Poly, Pomona, California. She loved the rural atmosphere of the campus setting. It is located on an old Spanish land-grant area from long ago. After brief visit to The Villages, her husband announced “we are moving”...and Wanda is so happy for his solo decision. He unfortunately passed in 2019 after 14 years of marriage. You will see Wanda as a volunteer with the social committee, a helper at the local soup kitchen and keeping active.



Jim and Linda Hansel recently enjoyed the Celebrity bridge cruise with 59 Villagers out of Tampa, playing 14 games in a week. Do you think they enjoy life at sea? After their first three day Carnival cruise they have over 800 days on Holland America, 100 days on Princess and 50 plus on other liners. They are now on a 27 day

voyage from Ft Lauderdale to Bermuda, Rotterdam, England, the Canary Islands and Morocco. They have visited all continents and over 100 countries. They also have enjoyed 12 Tauk tours and 9 Gate 1 adventures. They grew up in New York and Iowa and have been married for 62 years. With a son in The Villages and daughter in Philadelphia (with one grandson) their goal is to “spend our kids inheritance”. Please let us know if you need any help in that endeavor.

Tournaments and Special Events

The Villages Open Sectional Tournament – June 13, 14, 15, 2026

Held at the Savannah Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages.
Sessions: 0-50*; 0-499; and Open

Saturday and Sunday – Stratified pairs – 10:00 a.m. And 3:00 p.m.

*0-50 Newcomer Strat Saturday and Sunday pairs games (10:00 am sessions Free)

All pair events, single session/\$15 per person per session

\$4 additional per person per session for lapsed ACBL members

Monday – Swiss Teams – 499 and Open. 10:00 a.m. Play through, box lunch included. \$160 per team

Alzheimer's Event – Sunday June 21, Open/750.

Sunday June 21 will be our annual Longest Day ACBL Alzheimer Fund raising games. They will be held at Sea Breeze with 9 am and 1 pm, open and 750 games. Cost will be \$5 per game with **all** of it going to the Alzheimer's Association. We will also have free play raffles and a 50/50.

This year we are going to have a pot luck lunch between games. It's the summer solstice so the theme is a summer lunch. See the flyer that will be available at games for details.

Exciting news from our matching funds -between our November and March fund raising games, we have met the \$7500 match so \$15,000 to Alzheimer's Association! Now we have another anonymous donor making an additional \$7500 match. Can we meet this one? We already have close to \$1000 so we are well on our way. We have had many new members join the challenge this year so hopefully we can do it.

One small wrinkle is that Alzheimer's has changed their fiscal year end to June 30th and our event is on June 21st. If you can please give your checks of \$50 or more to Nancy Turner, Merle Erlich, Donna Brown, or Russ Pearly on or before June 21st so we can get everything in. Our snowbirds can mail checks to: Nancy Turner, 817 Pisano Way, The Villages Fl 32163, please by June 21st. It's an ambitious goal but we are the largest bridge club in ACBL with a very generous membership. Thank you for all you have given.

Rank Changes

Congratulations to those who have achieved a new ACBL ranking as of May, 2026!

Ruby Life Master Deb Brunoehler

Silver Life Master Mary Becker

Life Master Jennie Cleary

NABC Master Kathy Woods
Mack Woods

Sectional Master Char Soos

Club Master Tom Kruijs
Diane Page

Let's Talk about Name Tags

I played in a game recently and noticed that almost none of the players were wearing a name tag. Not having played in that particular game before, I knew very few of the players. Name tags would have been a big help.

As a reminder, we will always have new people entering the games – new residents, snowbirds who are only here part of the year, and players who are transitioning from limited to open games. The club does everything it can to attract new people to the club, and we want them to find the club attractive enough to keep on coming. One step in that process is friendliness. So name tags serve a purpose – they act as an icebreaker to build a welcoming social community. If you need a club name tag, please speak to a Director about ordering one, thanks.

An Impromptu Journey to Washington, DC: The Smithsonian

By Jennie Cleary

In May, we took a last minute trip to Washington, DC, a city rich in history and culture, and home to the renowned Smithsonian Institution. Having never visited before, we were eager to explore its celebrated museums and monuments. Our journey began with an easy flight from Orlando to Dulles Airport on Breeze Airlines. Having done some prior research, we confidently navigated the DC Metro system, choosing it over a costly taxi ride. This proved to be a simple and direct way to reach our hotel near The Wharf, a charming waterfront district filled with shops and eateries overlooking a marina.

The Wharf's inviting atmosphere and perfect weather made it an ideal spot for relaxing after days full of sightseeing. Outdoor dining and people-watching there became our evening ritual.

Our main focus on this trip was the Smithsonian Institution, a vast network of 17 museums, galleries, and a zoo, all offering free admission—a true cultural treasure. Our first stop was the Museum of African American History and Culture, the only Smithsonian museum requiring advance tickets. This museum traces the African American experience from slavery and the Civil Rights Movement to achievements in music, sports, and the arts, and more. Seeing artifacts such as slave chains, Ku Klux Klan hoods, and period photographs, provided a powerful and sobering connection to our nation's complex past.

We also visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located near the National Mall. The memorial's polished black granite walls are inscribed with over 58,000 names of fallen soldiers, arranged chronologically by casualty date. The site was deeply moving, heightened by the presence of veterans and the heartfelt tributes left by visitors, revealing the profound human cost of war.

The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History captivated us with its exhibits of fossils, minerals, and Egyptian mummies. The iconic Hope Diamond, a stunning 45.5-carat gem known for its deep blue color and clarity, was a highlight, alongside other remarkable donated gems. A life-size African elephant nick-named Henry welcomed visitors in the rotunda, adding grandeur to the experience.

Art lovers would really enjoy the National Gallery of Art. It features a Sculpture Garden and two buildings: the West Building with art from the 11th to 19th centuries, and the East Building dedicated to modern and contemporary pieces. Masterworks by Leonardo da Vinci, Monet, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, the great Impressionist painters, along with modern and pop artists, among others, fill its halls. We also appreciated the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of the American Indian, both offering insightful perspectives on

America's diverse heritage.

The area surrounding the Smithsonian museums impressed us as well, with its elegant architecture and expansive green spaces. We wholeheartedly recommend a visit to the capital, where history, art, and nature beautifully converge.



Vietnam Memorial



Museum of Natural History

Condolences

The club is saddened to learn of the passing of long time member Lynn Patterson, who passed away in late April, 2026. Our condolences to Lynn's friends and family.

Book Review: *A Rumor of War*, by Philip Caputo By Buck Buchanan

I have probably read close to 2,000 books since we moved to The Villages in 2005, and many of them have been books about war. Among all of those titles, *A Rumor of War* stands apart. It is not only the finest book about war that I have ever read — it may very well be the best book I have ever read, period.

Philip Caputo arrived in Vietnam in 1965 as a young Marine lieutenant, full of the idealism, discipline, and sense of duty that shaped so many men of his generation. What he encountered over the next nine months on the front lines stripped away every illusion he carried with him. His memoir is not written with the distance of a historian or the polish of a novelist; instead, it is raw, immediate, and painfully honest. Caputo describes the relentless heat, the monsoon rains that never seemed to end, the mosquitoes, the exhaustion, and the constant tension of fighting an enemy who could appear — and disappear — in an instant.

But the physical hardships, as brutal as they were, are not what make this book unforgettable. What stays with the reader is Caputo's unflinching account of what war does to the human spirit. He writes about courage and fear, loyalty and disillusionment, and the moral compromises that young men are forced to make

when survival becomes the only goal. He does not glorify combat, nor does he condemn the men who fought it. Instead, he shows us the truth — the terrible, complicated, heartbreaking truth — of what it means to be sent into a war that few understood and even fewer believed in.

One reviewer captured it well: *A Rumor of War* is far more than one soldier's story. When it was published in 1977, it shattered America's indifference to the fate of the men who fought in Vietnam. Over the decades, it has become a classic not only of Vietnam War literature but of war literature as a whole — a book about “the things men do in war and the things war does to them.”

For anyone who wants to understand Vietnam, or war itself, or simply the resilience and vulnerability of the human heart, Caputo's memoir is essential reading. It is a book that lingers long after the last page, and one I will never forget.

Gary Segal Speaker Series

Our VDBC member Gary Segal will be delivering several presentations in June:

Normandy – In June 1944, 13,000 aircraft, 5000 ships and 160,000 allied troops crossed the English Channel to Normandy, France. To speak of Normandy in isolation does not do it justice to its place in the history of World War II. The presentation will be delivered on Monday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m. At Colony Rec Center and repeated Monday, June 8 at 10:00 a.m. at the Savannah Rec Center.

A Journey from the Bronx to the Villages via CORE and TAAC – We all have our own journey of life. This presentation will reflect my journey and my experience as a member of CORE, being a Freedom Rider in the 1960's, and joining the African American Club of the Villages. Along the way, there were several bumps and bruises, but also continuous learning. This presentation will be delivered on Tuesday, June 2 at noon at the Warfield auditorium located at 98 S. Warfield Avenue in Wildwood. Note: Must be a member of the Noon Rotary Club.

June Trivia

By Nancy Tessier

Some months have some important dates. How can so many years have passed since I remember the events so well? Here are a few for June:

June 1, 1925 - Marilyn Monroe is born

June 3, 1965 - the first space walk

June 3, 1969 - last original Star Trek episode

June 5, 1968 - Bobby Kennedy assassinated

June 6, 1998 - Sex in the City premieres

June 8, 1948 - Milton Berle's first TV show

June 9, 1934 - Donald Duck debuts

June 10, 1935 - AA is founded

June 10, 1971 - Ed Sullivan's first TV show

June 10, 1692 - first of the Salem Witch trials

June 11, 1982 - The movie ET is shown

June 12, 1942 - Anne Frank receives a diary as a gift

June 12, 1965 - Sonny and Cher TV show starts

June 14, 1775 - The American Army is founded

June 15, 1215 - The Magna Carta is signed - the monarch is subject to laws and not above the law. It also stressed due process and justice.

June 15, 1936 - Hitler introduces the Volkswagen

June 17, 1775 - The Battle of Bunker Hill

June 17, 1972 - Watergate break in

June 18, 1983 - Sally Ride is the first woman to go into space

June 20, 1867 - US purchases Alaska from the Russia empire for \$7.2 Million

June 21, 1893 - first ferris wheel at the Chicago Columbian Expo

June 21, 2026 - Villagers will enjoy a bridge game supporting Alzheimer's

June 21, 1969 - Cleveland's Cuyahoga river catches fire

June 22, 1847 - The first doughnut is made. (And if you want get a good doughnut go to Donut King in Leesburg - hundreds to choose from)

June 23, 1967 - The first contraceptive pill is sold

June 26, 1498 - the first toothbrush appears

June 25, 1974 - The barcode is introduced

June 28, 1919 - Austria's Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated - World War I starts

June 29, 1613 - Shakespeare's Globe Theatre burns down

The Lighter Side

By Mary Jo Johnson

Jack is the only son of Awe Schitt and O. Schitt. Awe Schitt, the fertilizer magnate, married O. Schitt, a partner of Kneedeep & Schitt, Inc.

Jack Schitt married Noe Schitt, and the deeply religious couple begat 6 children: Holie Schitt, Fulla Schitt, Giva Schitt, Bull Schitt, and the twins, Deap Schitt and Dip Schitt.

Against her parents' wishes, Deap Schitt married Dumb Schitt, a high school dropout.

After 15 years of marriage, Jack & Noe Schitt divorced. Noe Schitt later married a Mr. Sherlock, and out of devotion to her children, decided to hyphenate her last name, and became Noe Schitt-Sherlock.

Dip Schitt married a woman named Loda Dung, who became Loda Schitt. The couple produced a nervous son, Chicken Schitt.

Fulla Schitt and Giva Schitt, inseperable throughout childhood subsequently married the Happens brothers. The local newspaper announced the Schitt-Happens wedding, which was quite an event. The Schitt-Happens children were Dawg, Byrd, and Hoarse.

Bull Schitt, the prodigal son, left home to tour the world. He returned from his travels with his Italian bride, Piza Schitt. 😊😊

Bridge Cruise

Marilyn Williams writes: “You can still sign up for the October cruise (see information at the end of the newsletter). The travel agent will have the cabins in our bloc until around June 8th. At that time, if they aren't booked, he will have to turn them back to Celebrity. If you haven't been on one of our last three bridge cruises, I hope you will join usTry it, you'll like it! Thanks, Marilyn”

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,

or Nancy Tessier at NancyBrooks2020@gmail.com Nancy and Jennie are also able to help with write-ups if you send us the basics.



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 * Bimini * Nassau * Day at Sea * Tampa**



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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

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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.