



The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Member News

October, 2026

Notes from the Editor: The club continues to be having some temporary venue changes, so be vigilant and check the venue before each of your bridge games. Special kudos to those who have worked so hard on the new reservation system – it is a really nice improvement. This month in the Member News we enjoy meeting Terry Wassman. Harry Messenheimer, Education Coordinator has a play of the hand quiz for us to try. Buck Buchanan shares some of his favorite book titles, we have October Trivia from Nancy, Mary Jo has some good humor for us, and we congratulate those who changed rank. Wishing everyone a good month.

Meet the Players By Nancy Tessier

Terry Wassman



Yes, the same story"once I visited I knew I had to live in the Villages". Have we heard this before?????

Please meet Terry Wassmann, originally from Virginia where her father worked for the government. She moved here by way of Northern California and Southern Florida. Finding herself single in her late 30's Terry worked her way up from typing to Vice President in a medical diagnostic company. She has a strong belief God put her in the right place at the right time.

She has 3 kids, 8 grands and 7 greats. One granddaughter, husband and 3 greatgrands live close by in Bushnell where she enjoys all the kids activities. Say "hi" to her grandson-in-law if you are ever in the Colman prison (or should we say correctional facility) where he is a lieutenant.

Her parents played bridge so she learned the game at an early age. And her sister visits from California, so they play bridge while not enjoying all else in the Villages. When not playing, Terry is busy with many volunteer positions at her church. She is also a certified end of life “down” (a person who helps a family prepare for the passing of a loved one) and has spent over 30 years working with hospice.

Terry loves to cook, decorate and officiated at 5 weddings. She also showed her grandson her “daredevil” side by jumping off a houseboat recently.

She dated a man for a while who had a daughter who was “connected” in Los Angeles. Terry was able to walk the red carpet at premiere’s and met Tim McGraw backstage at a concert. Even got a hug and a photo. As a kid she was the “queen” for a day on The Happity Skippity Show and was often mistaken for being an Indian due to her long black braids. People thought she was part of the Cowboy Alley show. Loving country music, say “howdy” when you meet Terry.

VDBC Member Rank Achievements

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

Ruby Life Master Marilyn Schmidt

Silver Life Master Judy Flickinger

NABC Master Jim Baumgardner
Sara Godleski

Regional Master Darlene Gasper
Janet O'Loughlin
Kim Powell

Sectional Master Tom Cobb
John Drake
GregMeyer
Connie Ratliffe
Stu Sweet

Club Master Terry Treadwell

Play of the Hand Quiz

By Harry Messenheimer

You reach six spades as South against silent opponents.
Opening lead is the king of diamonds.

♠ 6 4
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 7 4
♣ K J 10 9 6



♠ A K Q J 10 3
♥ Q J 4
♦ A 6
♣ A 5

6 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ K

How do you plan to bring home the slam?

See Solution at End of Newsletter

The Villages Sectional at Sea 2027

A reminder that a new Sectional at Sea will be taking place February 15-21, 2027 on the Sky Princess. Ports of call are in the Eastern Caribbean, including Celebration Key, Amber Cove, and Grand Turk. See flyer at the end of the newsletter for details. Prices are per person, and include the following:

- Unlimited beverages
- Unlimited casual and specialty dining meals
- Wi-fi (4 devices)
- \$100 per person shore excursion credit
- Crew appreciation (gratuities)
- Unlimited digital photo images
- Travel protection

First 50 to sign up will get free round trip transfers to Port Canaveral! These cruises are a great way to obtain silver points, and offer the chance to socialize and relax with other bridge enthusiasts. For more information, contact:

John Sobel at Go Away Travel 954-349-2800 or email

BestBridgeAtSea@GoAwayTrav.com

Best Books

By Buck Buchanan

As many of you know, Buck Buchanan usually sends in a book review for us to enjoy. Buck is an avid reader, and he has compiled a computer file of almost all the books he's read (several thousand), with a little caption for each one and a rating. This month he is sharing with us some of his highest rated book titles:

Best Books

- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain)
- Demon Copperhead (Barbara Kingsolver)
- Undaunted Courage (Stephen Ambrose)
- And the Mountains Echoed (Khalid Hosseini)
- The Lowland (Lahiri, Jhumpa)
- The Warmth of Other Suns (Wilkerson, Isabel)
- A Thousand White Women (Fergus, Jim)
- The Poisonwood Bible, (Barbara Kingsolver)
- Life and Fate (Vasily Grossman)

The Autobiography of Malcom X (Haley, Alex)
The Bookseller of Kabul (Seirstad, Asne)
Lonesome Dove, (Larry McMurtry)
A Rumor of War (Phillip Caputo)
The Old Man and the Sea (Ernest Hemingway)
House of Sand and Fog (Andre Dubus)
Into the Wilderness (Sara Donati)
Band of Brothers (Dick Winters)
Atmosphere (Taylor Jenkins Read)
A Short History of Nearly Everything (Bill Bryson)
By Any Other Name (Jodi Picoult)
The Lion Woman of Tehran, Marjan Kamali)
A Thousand Splendid Suns (Khalid Hosseini)
The Kite Runner (Khalid Hosseini)
Clan of the Cave Bear (Jean Auel)
The Space Between Us (Umrigar, Thrity)
American Dirt (Janine Cummins)
The Rent Collector, (Camron White)
Lessons in Chemistry (Bonnie Garmus)
All Quiet on the Western Front (Erich Maria Remarque)
Fall of Giants (Trilogy), Ken Follett
A Tree Grows In Brooklyn, (Betty Smith)

Photo Corner

John Quinn recently visited long-time player Marilyn Hubbard, a former Villager who returned to Indianapolis.



Five Signs you're Destined to Be a Bridge Player!

1. You like solving problems. We do this in the card play AND in the auction.
2. You like being sneaky. Deceptive bids and card play are important tools to employ in bridge.
3. You're skilled with Risk Analysis. Knowing when to take a risky action or to take a conservative route can be critical to your success!
4. You like being creative. Thinking outside the box gives you an edge at the table since most people simply expect the norm.
5. You're competitive. Duplicate Bridge is a game that attracts a lot of competitive players. If you're naturally competitive you'll fit right in.

October Trivia

By Nancy Tessier

Model T Ford

October 1, 1908 is the day Henry Ford introduced the Model T automobile...and changed automotive history.

The Model T was produced from 1908-1932. It was 5 1/2 feet wide, 11 feet long and 6 feet high. Using the first assembly line method of production, the price quickly fell from \$780 in 1910 to \$290 (or about \$5200 in today's money). What originally took 12 1/2 hours to build was dropped to 93 minutes. Top speed was 42 MPH and it got 13 to 21 MPG. Some golf carts almost rival this speed). There were 15 million sold, only surpassed in 1972 by the VW Beetle.

From 1908 to 1913 the cars came in gray, green, blue and red. No black. Ford then decided it would be cheaper to use one color and hence "any color as long as it is black".

(My father won a Model T in a poker game during his youth. I wish we still had it. It was black.)

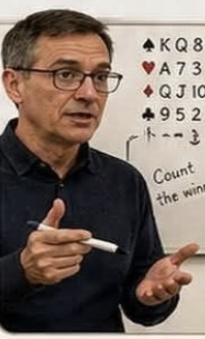
Halloween

October 31 is the day we celebrate Halloween (or eve of Saints Day November 1). Pagans celebrated the Samhain festival 2000 years ago representing the harvest time and end of summer. Early Irish and Scottish settlers brought the tradition to Canada and The United States. The first mention of "trick or treat" in 1928 was intended to curb pranks and damage during the Great Depression. (Let's get the kids some candy so they don't do any more harm.) Snickers were my favorite. Please do not give me an apple or messy popcorn. As an adult we used to give out nickels and dimes.

Remember the “razor blade in the apple” threat? This was the urban legend that did NOT happen in 1967.

Currently the most popular costume is Spider-man closely followed by Disney Princesses and witches.

A Field Guide to the People at Your Table

1 THE EXPERT  “I’ve seen this position before.” “...In 1987.”	2 THE CONVENTION COLLECTOR  “We play Reverse Flannery...” “Transfer Lebensohl...” “Two-Way Checkback...” “...and 147 other agreements.”	3 THE SOCIAL PLAYER  “Did you hear about Susan?” “Oh...” “Was it my lead?”	4 THE SLOW PLAYER  “Hmmm...” (Long pause.) “Hmmm...” “...Small.”
5 THE BEGINNER  “Wait...” “I only have twelve cards.” “Oh.” “I was holding the convention card.”	6 THE DIRECTOR  “Director, please.” “What happened?” “Okay...” “It depends.”	7 THE TEACHER  “Great hand.” “But here’s what I would’ve done...” “For the next twenty minutes.”	8 THE BBO PLAYER  “Can I...” “...Undo?” “Oh.” “Right.” “Real bridge.”
9 THE KIBITZER  “I would’ve found that defense.” “...From over here.”	10 THE MASTERPOINT HUNTER  “What place are we?” “Who beat us?” “How many points is that worth?”	11 THE HOSPITALITY HERO  “I brought cookies.” “Water?” “Chocolate?” “Bridge is better when everyone’s fed.”	12 THE BRIDGE UNLEASHED STUDENT  “Lead first...” “...then do bookkeeping.”

And Somehow **We All Keep Coming Back**. Every bridge club needs every personality. *Play well. Laugh often. Be kind.*

Teaching Game – Less than 20 MP

The club used to offer a <20 MP teaching game Thursday mornings. It is a wonderful way for new players to get a feel for playing the game, and players are allowed to ask questions and receive a little help from the Director. In addition, a short lesson is given prior to the game. And, masterpoints are given out! Attendance had dropped off during the summer, so the game was discontinued, but if there is enough interest, hopefully it will resume this Fall. If you have interest, please contact Harry Messenheimer, our Education Chair, at HarryMessenheimerBridge@gmail.com

The Lighter Side **By Mary Jo Johnson**

All throughout dinner my wife's best friend's four-year-old daughter stared at me as I sat opposite her.

The girl could hardly eat her food for staring. I checked my shirt for spots, felt my face for food, and patted my hair in place, but nothing stopped her from staring at me.

Finally, I asked her, "Why are you staring at me?"

Everyone at the table had noticed her behavior, and the table went quiet, waiting for her response.

Finally.....the little girl said....."I'm just waiting to see how you drink like a fish."

Play of the Hand Quiz (Solution)

Notice the hierarchy of your side's clubs. Except for the queen, they are all winners!

You are cold for 12 tricks and will make an overtrick if the queen of clubs drops doubleton. Play the ace of diamonds at trick 1 and draw trumps. Cash the ace and king of clubs. Then lead the club jack, pitching your losing diamond from hand. The ace of hearts in dummy will provide the entry for you to shed two losing hearts on those good clubs.

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? Contact 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.

See Bridge Cruise Flyer next page



Go Away Travel
BRIDGE CRUISE SPECIALISTS

GO AWAY TRAVEL PRESENTS:

THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE PLAYERS SECTIONAL AT SEA

February 15-21, 2027

Please join us as we sail round-trip Port Canaveral to the Eastern Caribbean on the Sky Princess. 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:

**Port Canaveral ★ Celebration Key ★ Day at Sea ★ Amber Cove
★ Grand Turk ★ Day at Sea ★ Port Canaveral**



SPECIAL OFFER ONLY FOR RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES:

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

Contact: John Sobel at Go Away Travel
Call/Text: 954-349-2800
E-Mail: BestBridgeAtSea@GoAwayTrav.com

CAT	CABIN	DOUBLE	SINGLE
MB	MINI SUITE	\$2,800	\$4,275
Mini Suite is 243 sq. feet with a 36 sq. foot balcony and a tub/shower combo.			
BB	BALCONY	\$2,250	\$3,250
Balcony is 174 sq. feet with a 36 sq. foot balcony and a stall shower.			

***Prices are per person, cruise only, based on either single or double occupancy and include the following:**

Unlimited beverages, unlimited casual and specialty dining meals, Wi-Fi (4 devices), \$100 per person shore excursion credit, crew appreciation (gratuities), unlimited digital photo images, and travel protection.

Valid passport required. A deposit of \$500 per cabin is required and is fully refundable until the final payment due date of October 31, 2026. Cancellations made between November 1-30, 2026 will be subject to a 50% penalty. Cancellations made between December 1-31, 2026 will be subject to a 75% penalty. Cancellations made on or after January 1, 2027 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 \$750 per person, non-refundable bridge fee will apply.