



# The Tri-City Signal

December 2021

Unit 442 Newsletter

## **Next Unit Game**

**Thursday, December 2**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Richland Community Center**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

12/09 Helen Hawkes  
12/09 Jeff Westcott  
12/11 Urban Jenquin  
12/17 Michael Crowley  
12/17 Billy Ker  
12/24 Kay Gorchels  
12/25 Ron Radford  
12/31 John Feo



## **SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER LOCAL GAMES**

### **TUESDAY**

Dec 7 - Bridge Buddies

No other December games

Richland Community Center, 12:30 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAYS**

WallaWalla/Tri-Cities/Yakima/Wenatchee  
BRIDGE BASE ONLINE (BBO), 12:30 p.m.

### **THURSDAYS**

Dec 2 - Unit Championship Game

Dec 9 & 16 - Bridge Buddies

No other December games

Richland Community Center, 5:30 p.m.

### **FRIDAYS**

No Dec 24 or 31 games

WallaWalla/Tri-Cities/Yakima/Wenatchee  
BBO, 6:30 p.m.

### **SATURDAYS**

No Dec 25 game

WallaWalla/Tri-Cities/Yakima/Wenatchee  
BBO, 3:30 p.m.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Thanks to your generosity at the November Unit Game, we now have \$1000 in the Cay Lewis Scholarship Fund. We have been granting \$2000 donations for many years. So if you missed your November chance, please be generous with your holiday donations so that we can continue to help CBRC students. Checks can be made out to ACBL Unit 442 and given to Unit Treasurer, Jane Hunt.

We have candidates for the three open Unit Board positions: Marilyn Hesser, Kathryn Lang, & Tami Westcott. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting. I hope to see you at the Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12!

We just learned that John and Kathie VanKeuren now reside in Woodinville, WA. We wish them the best in their new home.

Marilyn Hesser

# What is the Meaning of the Images on Playing Cards?

Adapted from Internet article by Bojan Lipovic,  
September 1, 2020



The images depicted on playing cards have bemused and puzzled players for generations. However, the modern appearance of cards traces its origin back hundreds of years, with their format and meaning changing considerably over time.

## The Origin of the Cards

Although no one can say for sure, it is believed that the first playing cards originated in China at the turn of the second millennium. These cards gradually made their way to the Italian peninsula, where they first made an appearance during the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. From here, the cards spread to the German states of the Holy Roman Empire and then onwards to France.

The face cards and suits that comprise the modern playing deck trace their way back to the French decks of the early 1400s. Each new region where the cards entrenched themselves birthed a unique format of deck sizes, suits and court cards. Among the various designs, the French deck grew to become the most popular, based on its more straightforward design and cheaper printing, which made it accessible to both rich and poor alike.

## Deck Size

Different states adopted different deck sizes. Besides the standard 52-card French deck, there was the 40-card Spanish deck and the 32-card German deck. In the end, the 52-card deck made its way to England, and from there, to North America and other parts of the colonial empire.

## Playing Card Suits

The original Italian suits were the coins, cups, clubs and swords. The French modified this to the more familiar hearts, clubs, diamonds and spades. It is believed that the suits symbolised the different social echelons of French society. The exclusively red and black colour scheme was chosen since these two colours were cheaper to print.

## Images and Characters on the Playing Cards

In the medieval European patriarchal society, there was little room for women. As a result, the first cards had kings, cavaliers and knaves (jacks) as the picture images. It was perhaps a nod to chivalry that prompted the French to substitute the cavalier with a queen, thus making the deck more equitable. Similarly, the knave, whose side symbol was *Kn* was often confused with the king symbol *Kn*, so their name got changed to the modern jack. Additionally, each king was associated with a real-life historical figure. Clubs represented Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar stood for diamonds, the spades denoted King David and hearts symbolised Charlemagne.

## The Ace of Spades

In the standard deck of cards, it's hard not to notice that ace of spades has a more intricate design than the rest of the aces. This goes back to the 19th-century tax laws in the UK when all cards had to be taxed.

Since ace of spades was the first card in a deck, it had a unique design as it was a "duty"

card, onto which a tax mark would be stamped, to indicate that the tax has been paid on that deck. Forging the ace of spades was a capital crime, with one individual even being sentenced to death for doing this.

### Backgrounds

Original cards had white backgrounds that were often used to scribble messages, etc. However, due to individual scribbles or smudges, it became easy for an opponent to identify a card, so patterned backgrounds were introduced to counter this predictability.

### Indices and One-Way Cards

Small indices at the edge of each card showcasing its value were introduced in the 1870s, to resolve the need for players to have to spread out their entire deck in full to see what cards they had. Similarly, court cards before the 19th century were all one-sided and turning a card around was a dead giveaway that you held a court. So double-ended court cards were introduced to assist card players more effortlessly conceal what they were holding.



## 2021 Unit 442 Christmas Party

### Potluck Dinner Annual Meeting and Bridge



**Potluck Dinner:**

**Food sign-up list is posted**

**Unit 442 is providing entree,  
plates/utensils, & beverages**

**Alcoholic beverages may be purchased in  
the lounge**

**Cay Lewis Scholarship donation collected**

**Bridge game will follow Annual Meeting  
Two bridge sections - casual & serious**

**Standby partner available**

***\*COVID vaccination required\****

**12 noon  
Sunday, December 12**

**Knights of Columbus  
2500 Chester Road, Richland  
WA**

**Director: Dudley Brown  
Party Chairman: Marilyn Steele**