

PHOTO
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SOON

APRIL BENDER

Great Mates

Greetings All,

First, I would like to give a big shout-out to Jann Knighton for her dedicated leadership over the past 3 years. Jann, you are appreciated and will be missed. Thank you also to the retiring board members for your dedication and service.

As the new President of the Great Mates, I just wanted to tell you a little about myself. I am a native of Miami and a graduate of The University of Florida. My husband, Harry, and I moved to Bradenton in the Spring of 2020, and we thoroughly enjoy living here. I'm an animal lover, and enjoy cultivating (trying not to kill) my orchids, traveling and cooking.

By the time you read this, we will have had our Board of Director elections and a new team to guide the Great Mates and collaborate on raising funds for important charities as well as scholarships for our own Bradenton Yacht Club employees.

Your new Board is as follows:

President - April Bender

Vice President - Liz Woodrow

Treasurer - Brian Moore

Secretary - Tayler Uselton

Community Outreach - Sharon Hoatland

Membership - Brittany Strott

Member At Large - Connie Moore

Please don't forget: Membership dues are due for our 2025-2026 season. We won't stress out about receiving the \$1.00 dues. However, it's proper to memorialize the tradition. Your \$1.00 will be gladly accepted by any Board Member.

The Great Mates is the BYC charity arm. Be it fundraising, event planning, decorating or community involvement – there is a place for you at the Great Mates where a dynamic group of folks work towards a purpose, enjoy camaraderie and make a difference.

General meetings and events will be announced via the Poop Deck as well as e-blasts. If you are not receiving e-blasts, please ask to be added to the list.

We are excited for a fresh new year and look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events. – April



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APRIL BENDER

Great Mates

Why is October such a chill month? Because it doesn't sweat the Fall stuff!

The Great Mates typically take the months of June through August off, but we've had several ad hoc planning meetings over the summer to prepare for and ensure a successful and productive year.

Upcoming charity fundraising events for this season are: The Not-So Newlywed Game in conjunction with Valentine's Day; our main event, the Annual Gala, which will be held in March 2026; the Fashion Show, which will be held in the Spring; and the Tea Party, culminating our season in May. Raising money for charities on behalf of the Bradenton

Yacht Club is our purpose and passion, and many hands make lighter work.

Great Mates events will be announced via the Poop Deck as well as in e-blasts from the Club. If you're not receiving the e-blasts, please contact the Receptionist at BYC.

Stay tuned for our newly revised website and Facebook page.

There are still so many people I haven't met, so if you see me around the club just come on up & say 'Hey'.

If you have any questions about the Great Mates or would like to assist us in any capacity, please feel free to contact myself or any board member at any time. Cheers!

Thanks! – April

BRIDGE CLUB



Who Likes Cruzin'?

Do you like cruising? That big, luxurious ship with lots to do, eat, drink and exotic ports of call? As if you don't have enough to do on your next cruise, consider taking a bridge cruise. Yes, there are actually cruises planned and designed for bridge players! No, you don't sit in a dark room all day, missing out on the fun things that happen on a cruise, but you do attend seminars, meet world-class players and play in organized games. These cruises stop at amazing ports all over the world! Some are on very high end ships, such as SilverSea, Royal Caribbean and Uniworld. These ships travel around nearly every continent. See the Caribbean, Europe, Australia and other places all while playing and learning bridge. Games are played on sea days, and gatherings are planned in the evenings and during down times. So, the next time you plan to cruise, consider a bridge cruise! Should a cruise not be on your foreseeable bucket list and you would like to learn more about bridge, stop by any Tuesday at 4PM or Wednesday at 11AM and meet with members of the BYC bridge club. For information contact Art DaCosta (artdacosta@hotmail.com). - Art

AUGUST BRIDGE RESULTS

TUESDAY WINNERS

- AUG. 5** 1st: Christine & Jeff Winsler
2nd: Carla & Gary Morgan
3rd: Sarah Arneson & George Kern
- AUG. 12** 1st: Tammy Usleton & Carmen DaCosta
2nd: Michelle & Morris Bencini
3rd: Sarah Arneson & George Kern
- AUG. 19** 1st: Lucia Shoemaker & Ann Wolpers
2nd: Robin Knowles & Art DaCosta
3rd: Tammy Usleton & Carmen DaCosta
- AUG. 26** 1st: Lucia Shoemaker & Ann Wolpers
2nd: Michelle & Morris Bencini
3rd: Carla & Gary Morgan

WEDNESDAY WINNERS

- AUG. 6** 1st: Carmen Dacosta
2nd: Marylou Thompson
3rd: Carla Morgan
- AUG. 13** 1st: Gary Morgan
2nd: Robin Knowles
3rd: Tie: Nancy Donaruma & George Kern
- AUG. 20** 1st: Tammy Usleton
2nd: MaryLou Thompson
3rd: Gary Morgan
- AUG. 27** 1st: Diane Williams
2nd: Ann Wolpers
3rd: Robin Knowles