

Bridge card-game lessons begin Sunday

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Published: March 15, 2010

The Richmond Bridge Association will start beginner classes next Sunday at The Bridge Center.

Instructor Ed Kinlaw, who used to travel to play at bridge tournaments, said the card game's appeal is that it is very social.

"We've had three couples meet and get married through our classes," Kinlaw said. The association started lessons in 2001.

"It's a game that makes you think," he said. "A lot of our players tend to be older. It's a mental activity you don't get from any other game."

Players play in a pair against another pair, and single players are matched with a partner. The beginner classes go through a free lesson book that Kinlaw co-wrote, which takes about half a year through the weekly classes.

Beginners learn opening bids, responses, Stayman, Jacoby, weak 2's, scoring, leads, signals, play of the hand, and other techniques.

The first three classes, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Sundays, are free. Starting the fourth week, classes cost \$3. Intermediate classes, which are \$5 a person, are held Sundays from 1:30 to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Some of Kinlaw's students played in a sectional tournament in Fredericksburg this past weekend.

The Bridge Center holds other bridge games during the week.

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