

# DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 2, Number 11 March 2020

## Leaves from the Executive Branch

*By Ray Yuenger, President*

I intend to provide monthly updates from my perspective as the current President of District 21 (“D21”). Just like February is shorter than all the other months, some months I may have less to say than others. We do get a bonus February day every four years. I hope you each made good use of your bonus day this year. Below I’m breaking up my stream-of-semi-consciousness with headings for the reader’s convenience. You can judge how related the heading is to what follows.



### **Gathering information about D21 operations**

As I mentioned last month, I’m in the process of gathering information about the operations of the various committees and personnel of D21. There is a lot of information already available on our website at [d21acbl.com](http://d21acbl.com), a site that has been ably tended by our webmaster, Grant Robinson, since September 2010. You could spend a lot of time reading the links available on that site. We’ll try to keep the information current, but if you notice

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## District 21 Regionals

*By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager*

Hello all, hope you’re all enjoying the lovely spring weather!

Hopefully you’re all aware that the California Capital Regional is right around the corner, and you’ve squared away your hotel room by now. But if not, there are still limited rooms available at the Doubletree. They filled up even earlier than usual, which is always a good sign that the tournament will be well attended and lots of fun. Call soon if you still need a room, at (916) 929-8855.



In case you miss out on a room at the Doubletree, never fear because once again our fantastic overflow hotel is the Marriott Townplace Inn and Suites. They’re very nearby, and every room has kitchen and living areas as well as comfy beds. The phone number there is (916) 920-5400, just ask for the bridge rate.

Once again I’m going to keep a wait list at the Doubletree. If you have a room there and you’re going to cancel before April 19, you may cancel through the hotel because your room will go back into our

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# Upcoming Tournaments

## Sectionals

Mar 7–8, 2020

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Mar 8, 2020

**High School Championship**

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mtn. View CA

Mar 24–27, 2020

**March into Spring Reno Sectional**

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Mar 28–29, 2020

**Rising Stars I/N Sectional**

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Apr 3–5, 2020

Silicon Valley Unit 507 Spring Sectional

Adrian Wilcox High School, Santa Clara CA

Apr 4–5, 2020

**Almond Valley Sectional**

Homewood Village Clubhouse, Modesto CA

Apr 11–12, 2020

(continues May 9–10 in Oakland)

**Grand National Teams Flight A District Final**

San Jose Bridge Center, San Jose CA

Apr 18–19, 2020

Marin Spring Sectional Unit 508

Redwood High School Gym, Larkspur CA

Apr 25–26, 2020

**Diablo Valley Spring Sectional**

Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon CA

May 1–3, 2020

**Sacramento Unit 505 Spring Sectional**

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

May 2–3, 2020

**Burlingame NLM Sectional**

Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

May 4–10, 2020

**Western Conference Spring Fling STaC**

Local clubs

May 9–10, 2020

**Grand National Teams Flight A District Final**

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

May 9–10, 2020

**Grand National Teams Flight C District Final**

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

May 16–17, 2020

**Monterey Lone Cypress Sectional**

Monterey Bridge Center, Marina CA

May 16–17, 2020

**Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional**

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Jun 13–14, 2020

**San Francisco Sectional**

Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jun 27–28, 2020

**East Bay 2-Day Spring Sectional**

Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Jul 8–12, 2020

**Palo Alto Bridge Club Super Sectional**

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Aug 8–9, 2020

**Castro Valley Sectional**

Transfiguration Catholic Church, Castro Valley CA

Aug 11–14, 2020

**Reno August 2020 Sectional**

Mathewson Bridge Center, Reno NV

Aug 15–16, 2020

**San Mateo County Summer Sectional**

Cañada College Grove, Redwood City CA

Aug 17–23, 2020

**Western Conference Summer Fun STaC**

Local clubs

Aug 22–23, 2020

**Wine Valley Sectional**

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

## Regionals

Mar 14–15, 2020

NLM Regional

Palo Alto Bridge Center

Mountain View CA

May 25–31, 2020

California Capital Regional

DoubleTree, Sacramento CA

Sep 1–7, 2020

All Western Championships Regional

Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara CA

anything that looks outdated or wrong, let Grant know. You'll find he's very responsive.

My information gathering began by sending a general questionnaire or survey, coincidentally to 21 different individuals, on February 3. I've received detailed responses from over half of them in the last couple of weeks and it's time to follow up with the others to see if I have current contact information for them. I know we have a group of hard-working volunteers, and I'm already learning a lot about who is doing what specifically.

## **Finding a mass email service for D21**

If you aren't interested in the commercial mass email options available to D21 or our pending decision to select one service over another, then you might as well stop reading now. There's an Internet acronym, TLDR, short for "too long; didn't read," that you might apply to the rest of this column. But if you are interested in this topic, I could use your help in making a decision.

The personnel survey I'm conducting as President gave me a chance to test mass-mailing software called MailChimp, although 21 recipients admittedly isn't much of a mass email. There is a reason for conducting this test. In past columns as Vice-President, I've described how this newsletter has been distributed through mass-mail software that is "powered by Pianola." An entity called "Marketing Solutions" has generously made this service available without charge to units and districts for several years, but very

soon in 2020 units and districts will have to decide whether to pay in order to continue using it.

After years of using this service as the Executive Editor of this newsletter, today I'm finally looking into what the user guide says about it. According to the guide, Marketing Solutions "is a customized version of Pianola specifically for ACBL Units and Districts." It is "an email service and member database provider operated by the" ACBL.

If you aren't familiar with Pianola, it's kind of a Swiss Army knife of bridge software. In addition to the mass mail utility, it allows posting of club game results to a results calendar and immediate email distribution of results to a game's players, and it includes some web-site building software and a partner finder. The Marketing Solutions customized version, however, is limited to mass mailing.

To continue using Marketing Solutions, D21 will need to pre-purchase email credits. The last time I sent out this newsletter, the software told me I was sending 6,829 individual emails. So distributing the monthly newsletter for a year would amount to almost 82,000 emails. Under the current pricing scheme, a \$500.00 payment would ordinarily buy 50,000 email credits, but there is an introductory bonus for that commitment, so D21 would actually receive 100,000 email credits for a \$500.00 payment.

Two benefits of Marketing Solutions are (1) it taps into the ACBL's own member database, so the email contact information is as current (or outdated) as what the members have provided the ACBL, and (2) the database includes current masterpoint

totals and allows targeting of emails by masterpoint ranges. For example, if you were staging a Non-Life Master Regional this March 14 and 15 at the Palo Alto Bridge Center, as D21 is, wouldn't you want to target your advertising to Non-Life Masters?

From my prior experience I'm also aware of two drawbacks to using Marketing Solutions. (1) The software has been unreliable. In the first two years of use, it seemed that over half the time I clicked "send" to distribute the monthly newsletter, after some screen brewing I got an "Error 524" message, which explained itself as "The origin web server timed out responding to this request." On this error screen was a graphic showing that the error occurred at "acbl.pianola.net." Under the question, "What can I do?" appeared the advice "Please try again in a few minutes."

The first month (October 2018) I encountered this message, I quickly learned that if I clicked "send" again, I'd get a second Error 524 message. Nevertheless, within five to ten minutes, I received two copies of the email I was attempting to send. In other words, the software actually worked in delivering emails, but it also displayed a bogus error message. Every month this error occurred, I sent Marketing Solutions a message describing it. On January 25, 2019, the ACBL acknowledged this error in an email warning users to ignore the advice to try again. The bogus error recurred for me in February 2019, after which a few months passed trouble-free.

On September 26, 2019, Marketing Solutions notified users of several "exciting changes," one being that the

contact lists had been refreshed to include members who had previously elected to unsubscribe from ACBL emails. Indeed, I had noticed that the list of email recipients had jumped from 5,689 in June 2019 to 6,936 in July 2019. However, the bogus error message recurred for five consecutive months beginning with July 2019, which I continued to dutifully report. Let's hope this problem has been permanently solved as Marketing Solutions makes its debut in the commercial marketplace.

(2) The other drawback with using this service is that the contact lists are opaque to the users. While the software indicates it is sending the newsletter to over 6,800 recipients, I have no way of determining which D21 members are on the list. When people complain, as they regularly do, about not receiving the newsletter, I can't verify if their email address is on the list. So I turn around and forward their complaints to Marketing Solutions. I won't tell you here where those forwarded complaints led me, but I continue to get them from some of the same people.

Curiously, this opacity is not a problem under the separate contract that U507, my unit, has directly with Pianola, not with Marketing Solutions. U507 members with administrative privileges can view and edit the list of members and their email addresses. This is good news and bad news. Except for the member's total masterpoints, Pianola does not keep U507's contact list updated with changes in the ACBL member database. Instead, a U507 Board officer updates our contact list every month by hand. The U507 contract differs from that offered by Marketing Solutions because the San Jose Bridge Center has been using

Pianola's results posting calendar and its results delivery service, not just the email service. The \$60 monthly payment currently depends on the club's average table count, not the number of emails sent. (Incidentally, the cost of Pianola to U507 was raised during the January 2020 District Board meeting, and I mistakenly said it was \$30. In fact, U507 was splitting the \$60 cost with our directors' association, but the total cost is \$60.)

One of the advantages offered by a commercial service like MailChimp is its email-tracking ability, which is the complete opposite of Marketing Solutions. It reports which email addresses are bad, who has opened an email, how often it was opened, and when. It also provides recipients a way of replying to emails and having a "conversation" with the recipient within the MailChimp software. As far as I can tell, for the number of "contacts" in D21 and our expected amount of emails, D21 would pay \$75 a month.

A potential problem adopting MailChimp is that ACBL members move into and out of and around within the district, and it would be up to someone in the district to keep our contact list current. It's one thing to update the U507 contact list of around 800 members every month, and quite another to update the D21 contact list of over 8,400. And my limited experimentation has not revealed whether MailChimp could be utilized to send targeted emails to members within a specified masterpoint range.

If you've borne with me this far, thank you. At the January District Board meeting, the District Board did authorize me as Executive Editor of the newsletter

to select the "most effective" means of distributing the newsletter once our free service comes to an end. As you can tell, I've been wrestling with the pros and cons of different options and trying to educate myself so that my decision will give D21 the most bang for the bucks it will be spending for commercial mass mailings. If any reader has expertise in this area, I'd like to hear from you sooner than later.

### **D21 Disciplinary Chair**

I'll conclude this column by repeating a plea for any recommendations for a person I can appoint to replace me as the D21 Disciplinary Chair. That's a hat I can no longer wear as the new President. I'm particularly interested in hearing from former unit disciplinary chairs or recorders, but expertise with the Code of Disciplinary Regulations is not required.

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## *Hughes*

*From Page 1*

room block. But after that, please email me to see if I've got anyone that needs a room. Likewise, if you want to come to the tournament but missed out on a room, email me and let me know you'd like to be placed on the wait list. You can find my email on every flyer, but in case you don't have one handy it's [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com).

Attention 299ers! Don't forget we're having a special day in your honor at the Sacramento Regional on Saturday May 30! There will be a special registration gift, refreshment, and best of all reduced entry fees! You can play one session for \$10 and each additional session for \$5, and anyone with under 5 masterpoints plays

free that day! Game times are 9:00, 1:00 and 7:00. Tell all your friends, and if you have too many points to qualify, tell all your 299er friends! The more the merrier. You folks are the future of our game, and you're very important to all of us. This is a celebration of YOU!

There will be many events to suit every level of player at the California Capital Regional in Sacramento, including Daylight games for you locals that would rather not drive at night (two session events at 10:00 and 3:00, or single session games at 9:00 and 1:00). There are simply too many options to list here, but the full tournament schedule is available in this newsletter and online at either the ACBL website ([www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org)) or our district website ([www.d21.acbl.com](http://www.d21.acbl.com)). Parking is free but it helps to carpool.

There are booking links for the Doubletree and the Marriott Townplace Suites on the District website. You can also book there for our upcoming regionals, the All Western in Santa Clara (September 1st - 7th) and the Reno/Sparks Regional at the Nugget Resort (October 5th - 11th).

Don't forget I'm available for any questions regarding our fantastic District 21 Regionals! Hope to see you all in Sacramento soon.

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## District 21 North American Pairs

*Stu Goodgold, D21 coordinator*

The D21 NAP finals finished in early January 2020. The first 3 pairs in Flt A and 4 pairs in Flt B and Flt C were eligible to attend the ACBL NAP Championships



in Columbus, OH this month. For playing in the NAP Championships, each 1st place gets \$700 per player; 2nd place gets \$300 per player; 3rd place gets \$200 per player. However, not all the top finishers could attend the NABC event in Columbus. So the D21 finishers below that pair are moved up until all position are filled.

Those that are representing D21 in the upcoming NAP Championships are:

### **Flt A:**

- 1 Robert Munson & Bruce Tuttle
- 2 Mukund Thapa & Richard Spitalnick
- 3 Ron Karr & Daniel Raider

### **Flt B:**

- 1 Qucheng Gong & William Zhu
- 2 Arthur Zhou & Michael Hu
- 3 Xin Ge & Sarah Chen
- 4 Wanwan Ren & Qing Lu

### **Flt C:**

- 1 Olivia Schireson & Brian Zhang
- 2 Di Wu & Amit Garg
- 3 Andrew Sinclair & Chris Chen
- 4 Aravind Alwan & Brandon Ge

Look for the next cycle of the grass roots NAP event. Club qualifiers run from June through August. Does your favorite club hold these special qualifier games? If not, ask your local club director to schedule them (up to 2 per month). After you qualify at the club level over the summer, the next challenge is a unit qualifier, which will take place from September into November. Look for a list of all the units hosting a unit qualifier, which will be posted on the D21 web site in early August. You can play in one and only one unit qualifier. If you

qualify there, you can play in the D21 NAP finals. The time and place for that event will be posted on the D21 web site soon.

Maybe next time it will be you and your partner on this list, and you will be getting some money to go to the spring NABC and play in the NAP Championships.

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## District 21 2020 GNTs

*By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator*

The Open Flight boasts the first Champions, designated to represent D21 in Montreal. Debbie and Michael Rosenberg, Geeske Joel, and Will Watson defeated another couple, Lew and JoAnna Stansbys to claim the D21 title. Almost a family affair, Kevin Rosenberg, playing with Li-Chung Chen, played with the Stansby, for a close, second place finish. Youth will have its day, but not this day!

Flight B also has a winner. Frank Zie, Yu Chang, Donghui Lu, and Jim Liu came out on top to win the District honors. Our District will be sending a second qualifier to Montreal in Flight B, to be the winner of a playoff between the Floyd McWilliams team (Scott Bensen, Andre Fargeix, Tanakorn Lavanakul, William Zhu) and the Alan Wood team (Bob Enenstein, Rick Jasper, John Wachsman).



## Mathewson Bridge Center Grand Opening

*By Jackie Zayac, District Director  
and Ann Little, Member of Unit 473*

On Friday, February 14, 2020, I was delighted to attend the grand opening celebration of the new Mathewson Bridge Center in Reno, Nevada. The room was filled to capacity with duplicate and social bridge players as well as a few non bridge players.

There was an abundance of fabulous hors d'oeuvres and bottles of red and white wine to have the attendees all leave feeling sated. Charles "Chuck" Mathewson made this all possible by a generous donation to Reno Bridge. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the grand opening as he was not cleared to fly from Palm Springs to Reno for the celebration. Bob Hamman, a world class bridge player, was on hand to share some stories about Chuck Mathewson and cut the ribbon to open the Mathewson Bridge Center.



*Jill Wallace (Unit 473 Board President), Bob Hamman, Kathy Lane (Mathewson Bridge Center Manager) and Steve Price (Washoe Bridge Society President)*

The Mathewson Bridge Center is a wonderful facility. There is a private meeting room (seen on the back-left hand side of the room in the photo) which

can also be used for private games and celebrations. The kitchen is wonderful and there are ample stalls in the restrooms! Everyone attending the grand opening had a wonderful time. Here is a photo taken during the event:



Bridge in Reno will continue to thrive for generations to come! I received the following information about the history of bridge in Reno from Ann Little, Member of Unit 473:

From home to the shopping center. That sounds like someone's trip to the local mall for a day of shopping. However, it also describes an important part of the Reno Bridge Club's history.

Duplicate bridge in Reno originally began in private homes. Most of the teams were married couples. It has been said that there was always a mixture of congeniality and acrimony during those games.

At that time, almost everyone played American Standard rules. There were no convention cards, bridge boxes, etc. and the term "alert" was unknown. The games were hosted by different players and always started at the unusual time of 11:45AM to allow the women to greet their children when they came home from school.

As the games became more popular, they were moved to a room at the Sands. This afforded some to go downstairs for a cocktail or two before returning home. Sometime later a more permanent home was found for what had become the Reno Bridge Club. Shiela Weimer began giving lessons on contemporary bidding and general playing. This greatly increased the attendance and over the years the Wrondel site became too small. Parking was a problem on busy days. Bathroom facilities and table space were very limited and there was no kitchen or serving area.

Fortunately, Charles Mathewson stepped in. Chuck is a firm believer in keeping one's mind active. He has been a contributor to youth bridge programs, UNR, Renown and various youth addiction and recovery programs. With a generous gift from his foundation and the help of Linda Averett, a new space was found in a nearby shopping center. The Reno Bridge Center moved into its new home, the Mathewson Bridge Center, in late January, 2020. Everyone is now enjoying the benefits of easy parking, ample table space, a kitchen, and convenient restrooms.

# Unit 509: Santa Rosa - Petaluma

## Spring Sectional

### March 7 and 8, 2020

Odd Fellows Hall 545 Pacific Avenue Santa Rosa, CA

Play begins at 10:00 a.m. each day • DAYLIGHT-SAVINGS TIME begins Sunday  
Registration and Lunch (available for purchase each day) Ticket Sales 9:15 – 9:55 a.m.  
Table Fees/Session: Members \$12, Unpaid Members \$16  
Non-Members must join ACBL on a temporary basis (\$7.99 for one month + table fees)  
Water and soft drinks available for purchase each day.  
(Stratification determined by individual with highest MPs.)

#### Saturday 10:00 a.m.

**Stratified Open Pairs (1 of 2)** A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750  
**Single Session Open Pairs** A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750  
**Single Session 299er Pairs** A: 100-300 B: 50-100 C: 0-50

#### Saturday 2:30 p.m.

**Stratified Open Pairs (2 of 2)** A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750  
**Single Session Open Pairs** A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750  
**Single Session 299er Pairs** A: 100-300 B: 50-100 C: 0-50  
**Members with 0-20 MPs** If play in a.m., play free in p.m.!!

#### Sunday 10:00 a.m. (DAYLIGHT-SAVINGS TIME begins today)

##### **JACKIE ORTIZ Swiss Team Games**

(Two Sessions Strati-Flighted)

Ax: 0-3000, A: 3000+ (Ax and A play together)  
B/C/D: 1000-2000, 500-1000, 0-500

Second session begins after lunch.

**Single Session at 10:00 a.m. only for**  
E/F/G: 200-300, 100-200, 0-100

Tournament Director: Lynn Yokel • ACBL Sanction #2003318

Tournament Chair: Harley Conner [harleyconner@msn.com](mailto:harleyconner@msn.com)

Partnership Chair: Kathy Venton (707) 591-5015 [bridgegalleryca@gmail.com](mailto:bridgegalleryca@gmail.com)

#### **Directions to Odd Fellows Hall 545 Pacific Avenue • Santa Rosa, CA**

**Northbound on 101:** Take exit 490, College Ave., right for 1/4 mile to turn left on Mendocino Ave. Proceed 1/2 mile to turn right on Pacific Ave. Odd Fellows Hall is 345 feet on your left.

**Southbound on 101:** Exit at Steele Lane and head left 1/4 mile to Mendocino Ave. Turn right and go 1/2 mile to Pacific Ave. Turn left on Pacific Ave. Odd Fellows Hall is 345 feet on your left.

**Westbound from Hwy. 12:** Take Hwy. 12 to the Farmers Lane intersection in Santa Rosa.

Continue straight through intersection and follow 4th St. for 1/2 mile. Turn right onto Bryden Lane which becomes Pacific Ave. Continue 3/4 miles to Odd Fellows Hall on your right.



## DISTRICT 21 NON-LIFE MASTER REGIONAL

FOR NLM'S WITH FEWER THAN **750** MASTER POINTS

Bridge Center  
432A Stierlin Road  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
650-940-1824

**GOLD** Points  
*Coffee and Snacks Provided*  
*Sign Up Online Now!!!*

Tournament Chairs:

James Stuart-Smith ([jstuartsmith@att.net](mailto:jstuartsmith@att.net)) and  
Anne Keyser ([apkeyser@aol.com](mailto:apkeyser@aol.com))

Director in Charge: Lynn Yokel

Partnerships: James Stuart-Smith

Fees per session:

ACBL Members: \$12; Students Under 25: \$6;  
Unpaid/Lapsed Members: \$16

### Saturday, March 14, 2020

10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. – Gold Pairs  
(Single sessions may be accommodated  
if space available, but do not qualify  
for gold)

### Sunday, March 15, 2020

10:30 p.m. and TBD  
Swiss Teams (two sessions)  
10:30 a.m. and TBD - Gold Pairs

All Games Stratified: 750/300/100

A Bag Lunch will be available for preorder online. For details and order form, see website.

***Pre-Register online early – TABLE LIMIT 48 - tables fill up fast!***

Go to: [www.paloaltobridge.org](http://www.paloaltobridge.org) - Events – Non-Life Master Regional

V3 January 2020

# SILICON VALLEY UNIT 507

## 2020 SPRING SECTIONAL

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3**

**VENUE #1**

### SAN JOSE BRIDGE CLUB

1190 S. Bascom Ave., Unit 105, San Jose  
Park and enter behind building

Friday pairs 7:00 PM (single session) OPEN and 499er - Unlimited/2000/750 and 500/300/100

**VENUE #2**

### SATURDAY- SUNDAY, APRIL 4-5

#### ADRIAN WILCOX HIGH SCHOOL

3250 Monroe St, Santa Clara

**Saturday Pairs** (double session)  
10:00 AM and 3:00 PM  
Stratified open: Unlimited/3000/1500  
"Silver Rush" Pairs: 750/300

**Saturday Pairs** (single sessions)  
10:00 AM or 3:00 PM  
Stratified Open: Unlimited/2000/750  
Limited: Under 300



**SAT 3:00 PM Newcomer Pairs: 0-20 ONLY \$5**

**Sunday Bracketed Swiss Teams** (7 rounds)  
10:00 AM and TBA  
Top bracket open/5,000; lower brackets under 4,000

**ENTRY FEES:** \$12.00/session for current ACBL members;  
\$16.00 for lapsed members; \$6.00 for members 25 & under



Sunday lunch tickets will be sold.  
Events will be stratified by pair and team averages. Turnout may determine strat limits.

**Tournament Director:** Lynn Yokel, (408) 499-2011

**Tournament Chair:** Mischel Postas, [mischelpostas@att.net](mailto:mischelpostas@att.net), (408) 379-6780

**Partnership Requests:** [bridgepd.com/507](http://bridgepd.com/507)



# Marin Unit 508 Spring Sectional

## April 18 & 19, 2020

Redwood High School, 395 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA

### Saturday, April 18

*In Honor of Bruce Noda - 1948-2019*

**10:00 AM**

**Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 1)\***  
(0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)

**Single Session Stratified Pairs\*:**

Open (0-1500, 1500-3000, 3000+)

499er (0-100, 100-300, 300-500)

99er (0-20, 20-50, 50-100)

Novice Game 0-5 points, no entry fee

**2:30 PM**

**Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 2)\***  
(0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)

**Single Session Stratified Pairs\*:**

Open (0-1500, 1500-3000, 3000+)

499er (0-100, 100-300, 300-500)

99er (0-20, 20-50, 50-100)

Novice Game 0-5 Points, no entry fee

### Sunday, April 19

*In Honor of Lura Crossley - 1925-2012*

**10:00 AM: Single Session Stratified Pairs\***

**10:00 AM & 2:30 PM: Bracketed Swiss Teams.** Brackets posted at tournament. 7 rounds/7 boards (lowest bracket plays 7 rounds/6 boards). 20 VP Scale for all brackets. Brackets based on team master point average. Teams may elect to play in top bracket. **Teams must play both sessions.**

**\*Games and strats will be adjusted based on attendance**

**Table Fees:** \$12 per session. (Unpaid members \$16; non-ACBL members, \$7.99 for 1-month membership)  
Age 18 & under: Free

**Tournament Director:** Lynn Yokel -- ACBL Sanction #2004333

**Tournament Chair:** Judy Leedy @ 415-336-6468 or [marinbridge.sectional@sonic.net](mailto:marinbridge.sectional@sonic.net)

**Partnerships:** Andrea Ventris @ 415-699-3175 or [marinbridge.partnership@sonic.net](mailto:marinbridge.partnership@sonic.net)

**LUNCH** on both days provided only with meal ticket pre-purchased at registration \$5.00 sandwich & side  
Free coffee, tea & snacks

**Directions:**

**Traveling 101 South:** Exit Lucky Dr., straight through the signal light and continue left on Lucky Dr. Turn right on Doherty Dr. and follow the signs to the front of Redwood High School and turn left into the west/front parking lot, which is closest to the venue (school gymnasium).

**Traveling 101 North:** Exit Lucky Dr., turn right onto Redwood Hwy, turn right at first signal (Wornum Dr.), right on Tamal Vista, left onto Lucky Dr. at next signal. Continue Lucky Dr., bear right on Doherty Dr. and follow the signs to the front of Redwood High School and turn left into the west/front parking lot, which is closest to the venue (school gymnasium).

# California Capital Regional

May 25 - 31, 2020

at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento

## Monday May 25

- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 1st of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**AMERICAN RIVER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**AUBURN BRACKETED KOs**  
Continues Tuesday 1 & 7
- 7:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Tuesday May 26

- 9:00 River Cats Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**TUESDAY DAYLIGHT GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 3rd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**EL DORADO BRACKETED KOs**  
rounds 1&2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7  
**AUBURN KOs - rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 4th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Wednesday May 27

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 5th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
Continues Thursday 1 & 7  
**EL DORADO KOs - rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 6th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Thursday May 28 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS - 2nd of 2**  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **JACKIE MATTHEWS DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 1st of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**KINGS BRACKETED KOs rounds 1 & 2,**  
Continues Friday 1 & 7  
**SIERRA KOs - rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Friday May 29

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 3rd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**OPEN BRACKETED TEAMS**  
**KINGS KOs - rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 4th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Saturday May 30 0-5 mp's play free today!

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS - 2nd of 2**  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5  
City of Trees 299er Pairs  
Sacramento River 99er Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**GOLD RUSH SWISS 0-200/400/750**
- 1:00 City of Trees 299er Pairs  
Sacramento River 99er Pairs  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 5th of 6
- 1 & 7 **CALIFORNIA CAPITAL OPEN SWISS TEAMS**  
Two qualifying sessions Saturday  
Two final sessions Sunday  
**STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**OPEN BRACKETED TEAMS**
- 7:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 6th of 6  
City of Trees 299er Pairs  
Sacramento River 99er Pairs

## Sunday May 31

### **EARLY START - 10am - PLAY THRU** **with a short break**

**CALIFORNIA SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP finals**  
**STRATIFIED A/X/Y SWISS TEAMS**  
Strat A 6000+ Strat X 4000-6000 Strat Y 0-4000  
**0-3000 mp Bracketed Teams**  
•No individual player over 3000 mp  
•Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall places per bracket.  
•Teams may not withdraw after one session.  
**SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)**  
**STRATIFIED OPEN FAST PAIRS, 1st and 2nd**  
**10am and TBA**

Events in **BOLD FACE** are two or more sessions and award gold points. Single session events award red points.

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2500+ B 1000 - 2500 C 0 - 1000

Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.  
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

# California Capital Regional

May 25 - 31, 2020



## \*Tournament Highlights\*

- California Capital Open Swiss
  - Two qualifying sessions Saturday
  - Two final sessions Sunday
- Four Knockout Events
- Five Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs
  - Tuesday Daylight Gold Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Mid Flight Pairs Wed - Friday
- Daylight Pairs
  - Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3
- 10 & 3 Gold Rush Swiss Teams Sat.
- Bracketed Teams Friday, Sat, Sunday
  - \*Gold Points in every bracket!
- Celebrity Speaker Program
  - 6:15 - 6:45 Tuesday - Saturday

**ENTRIES \$12**  
Unpaid ACBL Members \$16

District 21 website is your first resource  
For our Regionals:  
Make hotel reservations  
Plan your tournament events  
Gather general information/directions  
[www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

Matt Koltnow - Director in Charge

ACBL Sanction R2005113

at the **DoubleTree Hotel**  
**2001 Point West Way**  
**Sacramento, CA 95815**  
Capital Freeway (Bus. 80) @ Arden Way

Reserve **EARLY** for the  
**BRIDGE RATE**  
**\$112 single/double plus tax**  
**\$149 for Cal Expo Wing**

\*\*\*limited number of rooms available\*\*\*

**916-929-8855**  
**800-222-TREE**

## Intermediate/Newcomer Events

*299er Pairs at every 9, 1 & 7 session*  
*(stratified based on attendance)*

**Bridge Concepts Lectures**  
**with Scott Campbell**  
**Tues-Sat at Noon**

**Saturday is I/N Appreciation Day!**  
*Play one session for \$10, or two for \$15*  
*0-5 MP's play free on Saturday*

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com)

Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.  
Schedule subject to change.

**DISTRICT 21: Upbeat Bridge....Low Key Atmosphere!**

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# 86<sup>th</sup> All Western Championships

## September 1-7, 2020

at the HYATT REGENCY, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054

### Tuesday, September 1

- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 1st of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**HOE DOWN GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750**  
**KIT CARSON BRACKETED KOs**  
continues Wednesday 1 & 7
- 7pm Pony Express Side Pairs 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Wednesday, September 2

- 9am Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 3rd of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**GOLDEN SPIKE PAIRS 200/400/750**  
**WYATT EARP BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Thursday 1 & 7  
KIT CARSON KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Pony Express Side Pairs 4th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Thursday, September 3

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS** – 1st of 2  
continues Friday at 9am  
Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**CHEROKEE GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750**
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 5th of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Friday 1 & 7  
WYATT EARP KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Pony Express Side Pairs 6th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Friday, September 4

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS**– round 2  
Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 1st of 6  
99er/299er Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**SASPARILLA GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750**  
**APACHE BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Saturday 1 & 7  
SIERRA KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Saturday, September 5 0-5 mp's play free today!

- 9am **DOC HOLLIDAY SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
continues Sunday at 9am  
Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**ANNIE OAKLEY GOLD RUSH PAIRS 200/400/750**
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 3rd of 6  
Wild West 99er Pairs  
Branding Iron 299er Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**  
2 qualifying sessions Saturday  
2 final sessions Sunday  
**O.K. CORRAL BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Sunday at 1 & 7  
APACHE KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 4th of 6  
Wild West 99er Pairs  
Branding Iron 299er Pairs

### Sunday, September 6

- 9am **DOC HOLLIDAY SWISS TEAMS**– round 2  
Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SUNDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm **LAST CHANCE COMPACT KOs 1 & 2**  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 5th of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS** - finals  
O.K. CORRAL KOs 3 & 4  
**OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**WILD BILL GOLD RUSH PAIRS 200/400/750**
- 7pm **LAST CHANCE COMPACT KOs 3 & 4**  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 6th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Monday, September 7

- \*\*\*EARLY START - All games at 10am\*\*\***  
**STRAT A/X/Y TEAMS 0-3000/3000-5000/5000+**  
**0-2500 mp ROUND ROBIN TEAMS**
- 10am •No individual player over 2500 mp  
& •Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall  
TBA places per bracket.  
•Teams may not withdraw after one session.
- SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)**  
**FAST STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
10am and TBA with a short break  
299er Stratified Pairs 10am only

Events in **BOLD FACE** are two or more sessions and award **gold points**. Single session events award **red points**.

**Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.**

**A 2500+ B 1000 – 2500 C 0 - 1000**  
Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.  
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

DISTRICT 21 ACBL PRESENTS

86<sup>th</sup>

# ALL WESTERN



# CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 1-7, 2020

## \*Tournament Highlights\*

All Western Open Pairs Championship

Saturday and Sunday

- New Knockouts Daily
- Six Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs
- Mid flight Pairs Wed-Friday
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Daylight Pairs  
Wednesday - Sunday at 10 & 3
- Celebrity Speakers  
6:15-6:45 Wednesday-Sunday

**ENTRIES \$12**

Unpaid ACBL members \$16

**District 21 website is your first resource  
for our Regionals:**

- Make hotel reservations
- Plan your tournament events
- Gather general information/direction  
[www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com)  
Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.  
Schedule subject to change.

## HYATT REGENCY

5101 Great America Parkway  
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Reserve EARLY for the  
**BRIDGE RATE**

Mon-Wed \$214

Thurs-2nd Mon \$139

408-200-1234

800-233-1234

**LIMITED PARKING!  
REMEMBER TO CARPOOL**

## Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs Daily at 9, 1 & 7

Bridge Concepts Lectures  
with Scott Campbell

Wednesday thru Sunday at Noon

**Saturday is I/N Appreciation Day!**

Play one session for \$10, 2 for \$15, 3 for \$20

0-5MP's play free on Saturday

McKenzie Myers - Director in Charge ACBL Sanction R2009108

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www.d21acbl.com 1/11/2020

# RANK ADVANCES

## JUNIOR MASTERS (5 MASTERPOINTS)

Linda Allen, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Phyllis Ashen, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Carole Avery, Reno NV, 473  
Keith Avery, Reno NV, 473  
Suhas Badve, Monte Sereno CA, 507  
Benjamin Bascom, San Francisco CA, 506  
Ellen Bassett, Roseville CA, 505  
Debra Bellings-Kee, San Rafael CA, 508  
Gunnar Black, San Francisco CA, 506  
Bob Bruce, Sonoma CA, 512  
John Chism, Reno NV, 473  
Christina Dallera, Tiburon CA, 508  
Barbara Dehlinger, Los Altos Hills CA, 503  
Richard Devoe, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Martha Ehrenfeld, San Francisco CA, 506  
Andrew Ehrich, Menlo Park CA, 498  
Joe Fuchs, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Daniel Granger, Incline Village NV, 465  
Ron Haslem, Reno NV, 473  
Patricia Heaney, Reno NV, 473  
Lee Holm, San Leandro CA, 500  
Elaine Hughes, San Jose CA, 507  
Gessica Johnston, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Jackie Jonas, Reno NV, 473  
Katie Kenny, Reno NV, 473  
Richard Kenny, Reno NV, 473  
Dolores Kessler, Brisbane CA, 498  
Helen Kishi, Belmont CA, 498  
Vijay Krishnamurthy, Santa Clara CA, 503  
William Lynch, San Francisco CA, 506

Debra Martinez, San Mateo CA, 498  
Sara Myers, Monterey CA, 530  
Deborah Penrose, Half Moon Bay CA, 498  
Carol Perusse, San Mateo CA, 498  
Kathleen Powell, Sausalito CA, 508  
Andrew Purcell, San Francisco CA, 506  
William Quarles, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Stuart Rowe, Brentwood CA, 499  
Terri Rowe, Brentwood CA, 499  
Ray Spears, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Jill Stephens, Sausalito CA, 508  
Rita Swenson, Fairfax CA, 508  
Francene Tabak, Stockton CA, 510  
Eileen Tarrab, Moraga CA, 499  
Joan Tomasello, Lincoln CA, 505  
Ruth Ann Townsend, Fresno CA, 522  
Hans Werner, San Francisco CA, 506

## CLUB MASTERS (20 MASTERPOINTS)

Karen Albertson, Sonoma CA, 512  
Allison Ash, Glen Ellen CA, 512  
John Becker, Los Altos CA, 503  
Sue Becker, Los Altos CA, 503  
Susan Beech, Tiburon CA, 508  
Dave Blanchard, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Jane Blanchard, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Bill Carroll, Mariposa CA, 522  
David Clayton, Berkeley CA, 497  
Carol Devincenzi, San Francisco CA, 506  
Claudia Dopkins, Carmichael CA, 505

Larry Harris, Auburn CA, 505  
Jeff Hoffman, San Rafael CA, 508  
Pat Kelley, Morgan Hill CA, 524  
Feney Matthews, Richmond CA, 497  
John Mohrman, Petaluma CA, 509  
Jimmy Moore, Mariposa CA, 522  
Norma Morrison, Reno NV, 473  
Susan Pearce, Santa Cruz CA, 550  
Stephen Perry, Napa CA, 512  
Robert Pucci, San Francisco CA, 506  
Mary Quinn, Reno NV, 473  
Mark Reed, San Francisco CA, 506  
Louise Riemer, Incline Village NV, 465  
Suzanne Sachs, Twain Harte CA, 529  
Ilene Schwerin, Novato CA, 508  
Mano Singham, Del Rey Oaks CA, 530  
Mary Stamets, Carmichael CA, 505  
Uday Wagle, San Francisco CA, 506  
Eli Wismer, Los Altos Hills CA, 503  
Alice Woodside, Sacramento CA, 505  
David Wright, Reno NV, 473

## **SECTIONAL MASTERS** **(50 MASTERPOINTS)**

Claude Ashen, San Jose CA, 507  
Patrick Campbell, Reno NV, 473  
Steve Carey, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Jennifer Caulfield, San Francisco CA, 506  
Linnea Cook, Livermore CA, 501  
Mary Jane Duthie, Orinda CA, 499  
Rebecca Eddy, Windsor CA, 509  
Jack Gallaher, El Dorado Hills CA, 505  
Judy Grossman, San Francisco CA, 506  
Andrew Hong, San Francisco CA, 506  
Sylvia Landt, Napa CA, 512

Ed Lichtig, Lafayette CA, 499  
Vickie Renbarger, Livermore CA, 501  
Dennis Rubida, Gilroy CA, 524  
Evan Scott, Larkspur CA, 508  
Shirley Shi, San Jose CA, 507  
Brandon Wong, San Francisco CA, 506  
Youfeng Wu, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Gretchen Wyatt, Atherton CA, 503  
Maggie Zhao, Palo Alto CA, 503

## **REGIONAL MASTERS** **(100 MASTERPOINTS)**

Carol Cowen, Capitola CA, 550  
Jim Duport, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
William Glatt, Foster City CA, 498  
Melinda Hall, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Mike Halliday, Foster City CA, 498  
Kenneth Hui, San Mateo CA, 498  
Ronald Hutton, Oakland CA, 502  
Mark Issacs, San Francisco CA, 506  
Suzanne Jones, Reno NV, 473  
Kathleen Pfitzer, Carmel Valley CA, 530  
Olivia Schireson, Stanford CA, 503  
John Shouldice, Castro Valley CA, 500  
Clive Surfleet, Los Altos CA, 503  
Janice Vad, Vallejo CA, 512  
Stephen Walker, Alamo CA, 499  
Ellen Winters, Berkeley CA, 497

## **NABC MASTERS** **(200 MASTERPOINTS)**

William Chung, Brisbane CA, 498  
Andre Fargeix, Berkeley CA, 497

Pier Luigi Forlani, Berkeley CA, 497  
Carol Fraser, Sonoma CA, 512  
Mary Hill, Stockton CA, 510  
Larry Miller, Fresno CA, 522  
Judy Reeve, Saratoga CA, 507  
Karen Rocco, Petaluma CA, 512  
Kerry Smith, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Christine Vanderliet, Angels Camp CA, 510  
Kate Walters, Menlo Park CA, 503  
John Wesolowski, Santa Cruz CA, 550  
Brian Zhang, Dublin CA, 501

**ADVANCED  
NABC MASTERS  
(300 MASTERPOINTS)**

Andrew Chen, San Jose CA, 507  
Susan Dietz, San Jose CA, 507  
Susan Haynie, Lincoln CA, 505

**LIFE MASTERS  
(300/500 MASTERPOINTS)**

William Epperly, Atherton CA, 503  
Carol Henry, Brentwood CA, 499  
Jim Lauderdale, Monterey CA, 530  
Kevin Smith, Ione CA, 505  
Janelle Van Rensselaer, Burlingame CA, 498

**BRONZE  
LIFE MASTERS  
(500/750 MASTERPOINTS)**

Wendy Benveniste, Belmont CA, 503  
Laurie Faulkner, Saratoga CA, 507  
Catherine Fortney, Millbrae CA, 502  
Scott Gorsuch, Reno NV, 473  
Annette Halleen, Carmel CA, 530  
Douglas Halleen, Carmel CA, 530  
Carol Henry, Brentwood CA, 499  
Jim Lauderdale, Monterey CA, 530  
Mary Kay Leveroni, San Francisco CA, 506  
Mary Quinn, Danville CA, 499  
John Shribbs, Petaluma CA, 509  
Julian Standen, San Francisco CA, 506  
Jeannette Stern, Carmel By Sea CA, 530

**SILVER  
LIFE MASTERS  
(1000 MASTERPOINTS)**

Irene Hashfield, Los Altos CA, 503  
Rosemary Herrick, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Terry Kee, San Rafael CA, 508  
Henry Kingdon, San Rafael CA, 508  
David Pratt, Alameda CA, 502  
Jocelyn Startz, San Francisco CA, 506  
Janet Tainty, Santa Cruz CA, 550  
Sandra Williams, Pleasanton CA, 501

**RUBY**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(1500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Jean Cole, Lincoln CA, 505  
Robert Hamilton, Castro Valley CA, 500  
Bonnie Macbride, Lafayette CA, 499  
Norman Marks, San Jose CA, 507  
Susan Vogtlin, Rio Vista CA, 512

**DIAMOND**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(5000 MASTERPOINTS)**

Cheryl Mandala, Cupertino CA, 507  
Sandra Williams, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Ray Yuenger, Campbell CA, 507

**GOLD**  
**LIFE MASTER**  
**(2500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Jean Cole, Lincoln CA, 505

**GRAND**  
**LIFE MASTER**

**Pat Leary, Livermore CA, 501**

# HEART OF THE DISTRICT

CLICK ON THE LINK TO GO TO THAT PAGE

<b>Area</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Columnist</b>
<a href="#"><u>Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>497</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mark Kornman</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Diablo Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>499</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lisa Assoni</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>East Bay</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>502</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Joye Sidoti</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Fresno</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>522</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Laura Da Costa</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Livermore</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>501</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rosemarie LaFrancesca</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Marin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>508</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Gail Haar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Monterey</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>530</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mary Block</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Napa/Solano/Sonoma Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>512</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Tom Sheahan</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Palo Alto</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>503</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Judi Gentry</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Reno</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>473</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jackie Chandler</u></a>
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<a href="#"><u>San Mateo</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>498</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Fran Gaura</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Santa Cruz</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>550</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Karen Schamberg</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Santa Rosa/Petaluma</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>509</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cecelia Zachar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Silicon Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>507</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ray Yuenger</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Stockton</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>510</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Debbie DeZarn</u></a>

## Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

*By The Beer Dude*

The 49ers were unfortunate (if not unlucky) in the Super Bowl; more at the bottom. Now March Madness is soon to be upon us, so get ready to fill in your brackets if you join pools to try to win a few shekels. If any of you are headed to Columbus for the NABCs, take some warm clothing; it could be anywhere from 30 to 70+. Good luck if you go!

Unit games: Wed 1/26 drew 7 tables; Joanne Cobeen-Gerda Janos topped it. Chasers: Prez Joyce-Elliot Zeller 1A/1B; Sandi-Roseanne 3A; Susan Kovacevic-Carol Scott 4A; John Love-George Proper 5A/2B; the Posts 3B. Fri 2/7 also drew 8 tables, which Lamar & Dick topped, chasers being: John Love-Bob Post 2A/1B; Carrie Stoltzfus-Catherine Warren 3A/2B; Shahla-Aki 4A; Ben Grubel-Jan Kosel 3B. March games are Fri 6th & Wed 25th.

Just 2 new members – Jeremy Meza & Hung Li Ma, both of whose addresses suggest they're Cal students. The transfer-out I got was a woman who never showed as a new member/transfer in, which means ACBL still hasn't solved the problem that's plagued me & fellow columnists for years.

At da club: Eric was the Jan MP champ; George Proper took NLM honors. Club Champ Mar game is the 21st. Best "surprise" I got recently was finding out that semi-newbie John Haptas was an Oscar nominee this year. He & his wife Kristine Samuelson were in the running for Best Documentary Short Subject. Theirs was "Life Overtakes Me." Good luck finding it (maybe John can give us a clue). I just can't imagine laid-back & casual-dressing

John in a tux, but I'll bet he had a lot of fun walking down the red carpet & getting all the swag! He's a fast-improving player w/a talent we'd not heard about until recently; he didn't win, however.

Reminder: turn your cellphones off/put on vibrate once the game starts. It's OK to have a quick sound pulse for texts/voicemail – just don't interrupt the game to check unless you're dummy/done with the round. If you need to make a longer call to resolve something, just call me to fill in for you for a hand or 2.

Also, our game results also appear on ACBL Live for Clubs (just the standings & board-by board recaps – I can't put up the BridgePad matrix). If you go to ACBL website, there's a link @ the bottom of their home page to it – you don't have to log in to view. Just type in our club # (141689) or El Cerrito Bridge Club – you'll get the last 10 games. I've had to do this, as starting next month, that's the route I'll have to use to pay our monthly table fees to ACBL. No big deal for me, as it's a short process just like uploading to our website.

The Super Bowl was a pyrrhic victory for me, as I was in a no lose situation. Had the 49ers won, I'd have won \$200 in the "pick-em" pool I run for my friends & pub pals. KC won, so I cashed the preseason "futures" bet I made on them (@6.5-1). I won \$130, plus \$50 for finishing 3rd in my pool. It's GO A's for 2020 baseball (& I'll have preseason \$\$ on them for sure).

Tips to play faster: THINK AHEAD during the auction, & make sure you & partner are on the same page. Sure, your pard will throw you the occasional "curveball" that gives you pause, but take

your best shot. When declaring, take a good look at TRICK ONE before you play, then go smoothly from there. If you're in a hopeless contract, play to cut your losses, especially after a bad trump break/side-suit break when in NT. On defense, it's OK to tank a bit before making an opening lead; in 3rd seat, it's OK to take a good look @ dummy & figure out your chances to beat the contract/limit overtricks. Again, it's wise to think ahead, especially if you're going to be discarding when declarer runs a long suit in NT – partnership cooperation via discard signals (1st trick only!) helps a lot. Bottom line is to PAY ATTENTION to the auction!

Tweak [beerman1949@gmail.com](mailto:beerman1949@gmail.com) to brag/gripe/suggest; Unit info & game results available 24/7 @ [www.berunit497.org](http://www.berunit497.org).

## Diablo Valley

*By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook*

March Madness means Tournament of 68 college basketball teams, in which all teams battle to sudden death situation, meaning if they lose they lose. It's just that simple, right?

Well, take that to the bridge table and chomp on it. Yes, it can be March Madness each time we play the game, and we're hoping to remove the mad from madness, and replace it with glad; displaying our "Cool-as-a Cucumber" attitude. When you know you have your opponents over a barrel, graciously accept the win. For some



folks, this is the only social outlet they have, and correcting new players when they've made a mistake and gloating is downright distasteful. If the other team asks for your opinion, so be it; but unauthorized criticism is best kept to yourself. And yes, I've given my share of unsolicited advice. Mum's the word!

Have you ever had to eat humble pie? Well, I've eaten my share at the bridge table. I don't like losing, and I don't think you do either. Losing gracefully is a misnomer. Others at the table will console you with "We all come in last sometime," "Heck, it's only a game," but when they lose, they become crusty crabs or worse, snapping turtles and just watch their faces turn beet red. And then they're the grumblers, like myself, who complain because we just can't get a good hand. I have heard some say, "We're bored playing defense." Well, I'm again turning over a new leaf, by accepting what I've been dealt and keeping a poker face. (That will require me to put a bag over my head.)

Fire up the engines and get ready to roll for our Spring Sectional. Save the date: April 25 and 26, to be held at the Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, CA 94582.

We meet at our usual hangout, and let the games begin. Saturday, 10:00 and you can play two rounds. Sunday is dedicated to Swiss Teams, and is so fun! Will have lunch for purchase, and our usual array of goodies to snack and enjoy. For directions, game times and all the details, please log onto [diablovalleybridge.com](http://diablovalleybridge.com). It's an event that shouldn't be missed. Hope to see you all there.

Ciao Bella.

## East Bay

*By Joye Sidoti*  
([efsjbd\\_ba@hotmail.com](mailto:efsjbd_ba@hotmail.com))

The regularly scheduled Unit 502 Games will be on Sunday, March 1 and Sunday, March 15 when the free lunch will be served at about 11:30 am, and the game will begin at 12:00.

EBCBC Sunday games. In March, those games will take place on March 8 (club championship), March 22, and March 29. The games begin at noon, and a light lunch will be served before the game.

Other special games at EBCBC: Monday, March 2 will be an ACBL-wide Senior Pairs game starting at noon costing \$10.00; March 8 – 13 will be Club Championship games; and Monday, March 30 will be a '90th day' game where all nonagenarians play for free starting at noon.

The monthly Swiss Teams game will be on March 21. For more information, contact Greg Vance, Grant Vance or David Geary.

In the February 2 unit game: Nancy Gunn and Sarita Mathiasen were 1st; Grant and Gregory Vance were tied for 2/3 with Tom McKelvey and John Santibanes; David Cartwright and Ravi Bhalla were 4th. The scores ranged from 57.14% to 64.58%. In the February 16 unit game: Amber Lin and Chris Chen were 1st; Nadine Levine and Peggy Rourke were 2nd; David Geary and Sue Eltringham were 3rd; Pat Leary and Nick Wiebe were 4th. The scores ranged from 57.96% to 70.69%.

Welcome to new Unit 502 members Jeanne Robinson and Katya Rehak. When

you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancement: Patrick Chye, Virginia Davis, Jian Wang to Junior Master; Sandra Maker, Jennie Schacht to Club Master; Margaret Garms, Peter Hannigan to Sectional Master; Diane Anderson, Paul Britto, Kathleen Clancy, Don Levine, Pam Sawyer, Richard Springer to Regional Master; Mike Wyman to NABC Master; Julie Burnet to Silver Life Master; Stephen Kennedy to Sapphire Life Master; Mark Moss to Grand Life Master. When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them.

Larry Bowerman will be writing the March column, so please contact him at ([lmjtbow@pacbell.net](mailto:lmjtbow@pacbell.net)) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

## Fresno

*By Laura Da Costa*

Hello Everyone! As I write this email, I feel I am still in recovery from the craziness and fun of the Fresno Winter Sectional that ended just a few days ago (February 14-17). We haven't had an overall attendance that large in many years, and I am happy to report that all days were well attended (no drop off on Sunday, yay!). Our thanks go to Scott Campbell (Tournament Director) and Mary Lou Pease (Partnership Chair). Mary Lou and I also co-chaired hospitality with a great team of Deb Petersen, Jonel Mueller, Belva Quattrin, & Cyndi Tingey; the group of us wish to thank our members who donated an amazing amount of food

and cash to our sectional. The Friday afternoon game was the 11th Annual Mary Jo Davila Memorial game.

Winners in the Open Game were: (N/S) David Haberstick & Victor Greener and (E/W & Overall) Mary Mayfield & Danny O'Brooklyn; the winners for the 499er game Mary & John Schelling. The President's Award winner was Victor Greener, and top 99er winners were Jimmy Moore & Bill Carroll.

On Sunday, January 2, we had a Pro-Am Swiss Teams game. There were 5 teams for this session. As we always like to see, everyone had at least one victory and received some masterpoints. The big winners (based on Victory Points) were Bill Glass (captain), Mary Lou Pease, Carol Kaufman, & Edward Hampton.

The 2020 Board of Directors convened in January. We welcomed new member Jonel Mueller to the Board; Jonel will be taking over the role of Charity Chair. We have to say good-bye to board member Jackie Finn, our Hospitality Chair for many years. Thank you, Jackie, for your service.

January was the beginning of EasyBridge! 1 & 2 lessons, and Mary Lou Pease and I are very pleased with the turnout. We have at least 3 tables of brand new students in EasyBridge! 1 and around 3 to 4 tables of continuing students in EasyBridge! 2.

We had quite a few games with 70% scores in January. In Oakhurst, Burke Zane & Ken Sommers started 2020 off with a 70.31% in the Monday morning game on 1/13. In Madera, two different pairs started the year off well: Steve Johnson & Carol Kaufman, 73.31% in the Wednesday

evening game on 1/22, and Richard Meffley & Barbara Diebert, 72.5% in the game the following week (1/29). The remaining 70% games were in Fresno. The first to achieve the feat in Unit 522 for 2020 were Ray April & Laura Da Costa with their 73.96% in the Wednesday afternoon game on 1/8. In the Wednesday evening game on 1/15, Lowell Gist & Victor Greener, 70.83%. In the Wednesday afternoon game on 1/22, Victor did it again, this time with Bill Glass as they earned a 73.81%. Lastly, Bill was a repeat winner as well, this time on his own when he had a 77.27% in the Friday evening Individual game on 1/24.

A big welcome to new member Elaine Henshel (Fresno).

## Livermore Valley

*By Rosemarie LaFrancesca*

Our Livermore Valley Sectional was a success as always. The best news was that the furnace was working perfectly! Everyone was toasty warm. Our unit bought seat cushions to keep our customers comfy. Thanks to Art for the meticulous planning; thanks to Don for storing the seat cushions; thanks to Sheri for manning the food table and making coffee; thanks to Dan for the Sunday sandwiches; thanks to all our members who donated delicious snacks and did an efficient set up and take down of the tables and chairs; thanks to John for the water and soda sales. Did I forget anybody? If I did, here's a generic "Thanks to all!"

We hope you will join us weekly for bridge at the Livermore Bridge Club. We

meet Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the IOOF Building, 2160 First Street, in Livermore. Parking and entrance are in the rear; an elevator is available. Most games, including extra point games, are only \$6. STAC games are \$8; educational fund games are \$7. Reservations are suggested for the Monday STAC. Players bring food to share; the club provides coffee/tea; a good time is had by all.

Encourage your bridge-playing friends to give Duplicate Bridge a try. Many “party bridge” players would enjoy the challenge of duplicate bridge. Our members are friendly and eager to help newer players, so come on down! The Livermore Bridge Club website is ([livermorebridge.com](http://livermorebridge.com)). You will find a calendar of events there; you can also find Paul’s bridge tips and publications via ([pfdubois.com/publish](http://pfdubois.com/publish)). There are links to neighboring units if you want to travel to your next bridge game. We also have a Facebook page at ACBL Unit 501.

We are well into Spring Training. Our local teams are taking the field this weekend; bragging rights this year will probably go to the A’s fans, but I still love my Giants!

## Marin

*By Gail Haar*

Welcome to our new members this month: Julie Carlson, Jeffrey Vaillant and Toni Weingarten and to transfer Zandra Krischer. Congratulations to our



members who moved up in rank - new Junior Masters Claudia Brisson, Sybil Byrnes, Jillian Kantola, Toni Middleton, Diana Nicoll, Pamela Snellgrove and Suzanne Tanenbaum; new Club Master Judy Duffy; new Sectional Masters Georgianna Farren and Natasha Khanderia; new Regional Masters David Ganz, Leslie Zimring and Michael Zimring; new NABC Masters Christine Koehler and Ruth Rozen; new Life Masters Linda Bucklin and Jody Newman; new Bronze Life Masters Stanley Green and Jody Newman; new Ruby Life Master Cindy Blum; and new Gold Life Masters Vince Mueller and Margaret Peterson. Unit Game winners were Gene Simpson & Laura Kenney (1/26); Ellen Schiller & Jerry Meislin (2/2) and Arti Bhargava & Tracey Bauer (2/16.)

Peggy Tatro’s next series of Intermediate classes has just been announced. She’s calling it “Competitive Bidding in the 21st Century,” and it will be taught March 24 – May 5, (no class April 7) at the Strawberry Community Center, Mill Valley from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. No need to have a partner to participate. Bridge classes are a great way to practice with your partner, and meet other local players. The main thrust is to enjoy the game and have fun! The pricing, registration details, etc. can be found under our site’s Classes page or by clicking the following link. For more information go to the Unit website (<http://marinbridge.com/>) and look under “Classes.”

20 tables of beginners crowded the Terra Linda Bridge Club for a free day of lessons and play with Peggy. It’s been fun seeing them stretch their bridge wings and venture out of the very limited games

and into the bigger ones; which brings up an important message. Let's all be nice at the table. Yes, yes bridge requires lots of concentration and is a timed event but within those parameters we can find some slack for our less experienced players to hesitate for a bit longer than normal (they are probably feeling somewhat overwhelmed), and to call nicely for a director when/if that becomes necessary. And please avoid what is probably my biggest Pet Peeve by not giving advice or a lesson unless your opponent (or partner!) asks for it. Most of our strongest players are super supportive and are glad to answer questions either at the table or after the game but they always wait to be asked and pitch their answer to the level of the opponent. Let's all follow their lead.



Be sure to mark your calendars for the Unit 508 Marin Sectional on April 18 and 19. This is always a fun and well attended event so it isn't too soon to start thinking about partners and teammates.

On June 5 the popular, dynamic, and ever so engaging Larry Cohen will be returning to Marin giving an all-day seminar. No matter your bridge level, you're going to learn something, probably A LOT. He's one of very few pros who can not only play bridge at a top level but explain it in a way everyone can understand. Larry says that the key is in teaching people to think rather than memorize. He is on topic, logical, informative, and entertaining so don't miss this opportunity.

Remember that the 2019 Edition of the Unit Directory is available through any of our Club Directors or Board members for only \$2 (the printing cost only). There are lots of updates and additions included, so be sure to get one so you can stay in touch with your old and new favorite partners.

Our thought of the month. Bridge is like a hot bath. It feels good while you're in it, but the longer you stay in, the more wrinkles you get.

## Monterey

*By Mary Block*

Welcome to new members in the unit: James Dirgin and Eleonore Gutierrez. The following rank changes are recognized this month: Russ Haisley is now a Junior Master; Debbie Anthony and Amy Pofcher are Sectional Masters; Joel Reimnitz has finally caught up with his wife and became a Life Master. Why did it take you an extra month?

Barbara Calloway is a new member of the Unit Board of Directors. Mary Quenette has resigned for health reasons. We wish her well in her recovery and hope to see her again soon playing bridge.

The 12:30 Pines OPEN game is held Friday at St John's Chapel Parish Hall. One of our players has supplied us with a new computer and Bridgemates. We'll have a Club Championship Game on March 20. Please mark your calendar and join us.

Planning for the Sectional is moving right along. Mark the dates on your calendar of Saturday/Sunday, May 16, 17. Our members immediately donated money for event sponsorships to defray the cost of renting the Moose Lodge. The schedule is available at the Bridge Center.

If you have a friend, relative or neighbor whom you'd like to turn into a bridge player (for his/her own good, of course), the Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation has re-scheduled another 8-lesson beginner series beginning on Thursday, March 12, 4:30-6:30 at the Bridge Center. Please have anyone interested contact Doug Halleen at 917-2502 for more details.

And for the newer players, there is now a game for the under 100 MP players at the Bridge Center on Thursday mornings at 9:30. There will be mentoring assistance available and the table fee is only \$8.

Sad to report that the unit lost four members recently: Rain Wilmoth, Randy Morris, Ona Labbe, and George Albright; our condolences to their families.

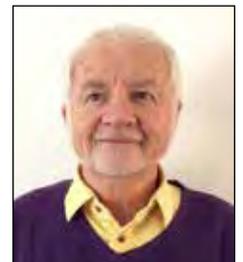
As a reminder, the Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation is a 501 c (3) tax-deductible organization which allows your much-appreciated donations to be tax deductions. Also, please consider us as a part of your estate planning. We were blessed to have such a wonderful location for our bridge center for the past 18 or so years, but another one like that won't come along without our raising a substantial amount of money! Thank you in advance!

We are [www.montereybridgeclub.com](http://www.montereybridgeclub.com)  
The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am [maru0407@comcast.net](mailto:maru0407@comcast.net) The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

## Napa/Solano/Sonoma

*By Tom Sheahan*

We lost one of the finest people that ever played in our unit recently. Doris Leckie passed away after 102 glorious years. She came to us late in her Bridge career after moving here from Montreal at about age 98. Everyone loved Doris and there is already a void at table 16 where she always sat. Thank you for enriching



our lives Doris! Players recently spending time in sick bay are Lois Lourie and Jay Gardner. Get well soon to both of them!

Congratulations to Carol Fraser who is the 2019 winner of the Barbara Fox Memorial Trophy given to the non Life Master who accumulated the most black points in the year. Congratulations to Carol who won by a large margin!

Here are your 2019 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney unit winners in each point category in 2019. The Ace of Clubs winners are (asterisk indicates a player who won both contests): Henry Clyde, Marge Sheridan\*, Nathan Tierney, Carol Fraser\*, Mardi Schma, Malcom Scott, Phil Shoemaker\*, Dan Harp, Larry Page, Joanne Wegsten\*, Don Powell\*, and Tom Jacobson\*. Mini-McKenney winners are Jack Beeler, Marilyn Schaffer, Leandra Stewart, Ed Houk, Sue Vogtlin, and Kathleen Smith.

Here are the January club game winners: Rio Vista players in the winner's circle include Sue Vogtlin & Bob Lohse, Larry Epner & John Shick, and John Miller & Marilyn Schuyler with the latter two pairs both posting 72% games.

First place in Napa went to Swan Day & Kathy Wilson, Jack Zeller & Adrienne Varin, Dale Oleson & Nathan Tierney, and Larry Page & Joanne Wegsten. Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson won the unit game.

In Sonoma it was Tom Jacobson winning twice, once with Kate Hill in a game that ended in a tie with Vicky Chang & Don Steedman with both pairs scoring 70%. Tom combined with Gerry Fox for the other win. Other winners were Jim & Frances O'Brien, Mark Hersko & Mary

Omodt, Clyde & Kathleen Smith, Nancy Rude & Theila Smith, Sigrid Price & Nancy Gunn, and Jack Zeller & Curt Jeschke.

In the Tuesday 499er game it was Carol Werner & Shirley Le Sueur, Prentiss Wilson & Lee Dalbey, Sandy Hicks & Claudia Sims and a 3-way tie among Anne Bryan & Carole Kupsoff, Ellen Shepard & Karen Albertson, and Carole Terry & Gail Silvestri.

I failed to mention in last month's column that Carolyn Loe and Gretchen Filer picked up 2 gold points at the Monterey Regional.

There are some new players joining our games who are eager to learn and have a lot of potential. It would be great if some of our more experienced players would have a game with one of them to help them learn. I'm trying to mentor them and any other C player who would like to learn from my many mistakes. We need more players and this is a great way to do it. So if you have an open date, please try to schedule one of the new players. They would be very appreciative.

## Palo Alto

*By Judi Gentry*

Palo Alto Bridge is more than just a bridge club; it's really a small community of almost 1,000 people. We range in age from 8 years old to several members in their 90s. We come from all over the world and speak many languages, in addition to English. Our economics, politics and religious beliefs are varied (and rarely



discussed.) What brings us together is a love for the game of bridge. Beyond that, like any healthy community, we help each other and respect each other. Every day that I'm at the club I see acts of kindness and generosity. Did you know there is a person devoted to sending cards or flowers to member who are ill or facing a challenge? We want to show we care; I think we do.

One way we can help each other is by being a mentor to those who are just beginning their bridge journey. Jim Hulseman is coordinating the Mentor-Mentee program this year. He recently sent an email to all of us inviting our participation. Please consider sharing your acquired knowledge with someone who is newer to the game. Who knows what each partner might gain from the relationship.

Another way the club is helping players gain in their bridge experience is by offering extra tournaments for non-life masters. In February we held a NLM Sectional at our club. We have hosted many of these, but



this one had the largest attendance yet. By all accounts, it was well run, offered lots of points for participants, and most importantly, was a lot of fun.

In March, we will host District 21's first ever Non-Life Master Regional at Unit 503. It is a two-day event. The tournament is oversubscribed with a waiting list. Good luck to all who play.

On the topic of rank advancements, congratulations to Marc Cervellino, Bette Hirsch, Lori Mirek and Alan Polish, all announced as new Life Masters this month.

It's interesting to hear about players' early experiences in bridge. Here's a little of Alex Martelli's story: "I started as a kid over 50 years ago, in my native Italy. I got 3rd places in two Italian junior team championships, one, as it happens, with Jeff Wolfson who was a student in Italy at the time. Then college and career. I started again 4 years ago, playing mostly with my wife Anna." Marc Cervellino credits Palo Alto Bridge for "its frequent schedule of well-attended games, friendly players, informative free lectures, an excellent library, and expert players who gladly share their bridge knowledge (and great partners.)" Lest we think that achieving life master is the end of the road, a round of applause for Lee David Haze, a new Ruby Life Master (that's 1,500 points.)

Palo Alto Bridge will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m. Come to hear a review of 2019 accomplishments as well as plans for 2020. Your presence is also important to vote on a proposed amendment to the club's constitution. Hope to see many of you there.

## Reno

*By Jackie Chandler*

An artist tackles the job of painting a portrait with a zest that soon evolves into affection. With a color-laden palette the assignment of rendering a thoughtful image is readily accepted. A writer, however, with white paper and a black ink pen faces the same colorful subject but accepts the challenge as well.

Perhaps our subject's young life was launched during a year-long back-packing tour of the world where her journey passed from Southeast Asia to the Himalayas through Iran, Afghanistan to Europe.

Post college life led to a career in computer science. But, the untimely death of her father opened the world of medicine. "I knew it was time to stop working with machines," she said, "and start working with people."

A 25-year career in Internal Medicine followed, interspersed as a volunteer to Africa. Since 1999 she has worked in a hospital in Malawi as well as in remote villages in sub-Saharan Africa. Her mission was supporting health care workers as well as treating vulnerable women and children. She will travel to Bhutan this month to work with medical residents.

In the midst of such a colorful life and devotion to volunteerism, I asked this good doctor, "What was the most memorable event in your life?" She paused for only a second, "the birth of my daughter!" she said. Her motherhood role expanded even further with the adoption of a son.

In addition to hobbies that included snow shoeing, hiking, and knitting, this

remarkable woman found time for a new passion – tournament bridge – and became a member of the ACBL.

We welcome: Helen Trop-Zell, MD.

## Sacramento

*By Miriam Steinberg*

Playing in tournaments can be a multi-faceted experience. We learn from our experiences, observe, hear anecdotes and experience a multitude of adventures.



Barbara Somervill learned that she had to learn the rules of the event and not to assume anything. She played in a compact knock-out in Gatlinburg and was told by the opponents if you lost in the first round, you were automatically out. After losing the first round, they won the second round by 80+ points. But expecting to have been eliminated and having a 3 hour drive through the mountains in the snow, she left for home with her phone having been turned off per tournament rules. Of course, they had not been eliminated; her team tried calling in vain and had to forfeit. "I felt like a twit," she confessed.

Ted Muller played against smug opponents who learned a hard lesson. Back in the '80s, he sat down with Garth Gregory to begin a Swiss Teams event at the Santa Rosa Regional. "Our first-round opponents were patting each other on the backs about 'never having gone down 700' (old scoring) in a team game." The auction on Board #1: IH-P-2C-2S; X-P-P-P; Down 700.

On Board #2 P-P-P-2H (10-13 hcp); 2S-X-P-P; Down 700. “Those guys were smiling out the other sides of their mouths from then on!” noted Ted.

My partner, Ted Easley and I were playing in a Swiss Teams event in the San Francisco Nationals. The game was moving along at a snail’s pace. We were well into the match when I mumbled under my breath how I needed to use the restroom. The cheerful opponents told me “no problem, please go ahead.” I ran, even cutting in a long line. After I returned, the director decided that there was not enough time for us to play our last board and took it away (she later told us she should have let us play it). The opponents were fine, until they learned that their partners had gotten a really good board and complained to the head director. We had been winning by a long shot, but got penalized, significantly lowering our number of IMPs, although we still beat them). Ted complained to the head director after lunch, feeling the ruling was too harsh. She re-instated a small number of IMPs and we ended up winning the event by 1 IMP! Lesson learned—don’t drink too many liquids when playing bridge, wear diapers or run to the restroom while dummy!

Dave Vidaver learned to stop caring about masterpoints after he came in dead last in an event and still won points from being in the overalls. He and his partner were playing in a 2 -day morning compact KO and were relegated to the consolation game for the next morning. “Of the 8 teams so lucky, only 3 showed up, 2 teams of professionals with their clients and ourselves,” he explained. “We played a

pair of 12 board matches and lost by what I remember to be an embarrassing number of IMPs. But 3rd in an 8 -team event was worth 3.01 red points!”

Dave also learned not to assume that a terrible bidding error by partner necessarily constitutes a disaster! He was playing with George Lim in a pairs game in the Burlingame Regional a few years back, when he picked up a 4-3-3-3, 13- point hand. George opened the bidding 1NT, showing 10-12 points non-vulnerable. “Recognizing my LHO to be someone who balanced on nothing, I passed in anticipation of a healthy penalty. He quickly passed, the opening lead was tabled, and George apologized to me for not having only misread the vulnerability, but held 19 hcp, 2 more than the 15-17 he mistakenly thought he was showing.” The entire room was apparently in 6NT, exactly half making on a mis-defense or in the same squeeze George had found, the other half going down one. 1NT+6 for an average!

Gary Soules was awarded his Grand Life Master for 6 hours at the Las Vegas Nationals and then was demoted to 2nd place. This is what happened. The auction went initially like this: Gary’s partner opened weak: 2D-X-3NT-X; P-P--4D-P (long pause); P-4S-P—P; 5D. Gary was thinking for a few seconds about the hesitation by LHO and passed. Partner took the save. The opponents later contacted the director who ruled against them after a survey between 10 other players, claiming Gary took too long to bid and that gave unauthorized information to his partner. Gary and his partner protested the ruling. “Ironically, when the paperwork was

processed and sent back to change our score to 2nd, the rules committee thought we had won the protest (based on the wording in the appeal) and incorrectly thought we had won the event. Thus, the next day our picture was on the front page as winners. They corrected their error 6 hours later.” Gary explained how important it is to pass in tempo; because he hesitated at the wrong time; it was the opinion of the ruling that it was giving unauthorized information to his partner. “Tough luck,” he commented, “but we were so fortunate to be second.” We look forward to Gary placing first in another national event.

Some amusing anecdotes were shared. Carl Oeser recounted a tale told to him about Lew Mathe, a great player from decades ago. At a regional back East, a pair of young men came to his table and announced that they were playing a forcing pass system, approved by the tournament committee. Bidding went pass by his partner, P on his right alerted as 15 or more points, double by Lew. The director was called and LHO recounted the auction. Lew said if the opponent can P to show a big hand, he should be able to double to show a similar hand. The director said “Let’s see where this goes”. Here was the auction: P P X X; P P P! Another story by Carl took place at the Reno regional New Year’s Eve midnight game where everyone was served champagne—it was know as “the drunken pairs.” According to the story, ‘Richard’ was quite loopy and played 5CX down for 800. He followed the board to the next table and asked the player if he could try again because he hadn’t played the hand well. The guy got up and went to play —

down 3 again. He tried it 2 more times and finally made 5 and NO ONE CARED AT ALL!

Tournament stories to be continued next month, including Chip Martel at the Bermuda Bowl. Please share your stories with our readers by e-mailing them to me at [mirsteinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:mirsteinberg@yahoo.com).

## San Francisco

*By Kimberly Fanady*

In like a lamb, out like a lamb: it’s March in San Francisco. Time for March Madness, St. Patrick’s Day – bridge players can always use a little of the luck o’ the Irish – the Spring NABC, and most of all, Opening Day! Another baseball season!



Congratulations to Unit 506’s winners of the 2019 Mini McKenney (most points won) and Ace of Clubs (most points won in club games) races. These awards reflect a lot of time at the table, dedication, and skill – a big round of applause to: 0-5 Andrew Hong (both); 5-20 Rhian Davies (both); 20-50 Lynne Crawford (both); 50-100 Christian Goetze (both); 100-200 Jo Streich (MM), Jesse Levy (AC); 200-300 Al Cavagnaro (both); 300-500 Chris Chen (MM), Bruce Osterweil (AC); 500-1000 Judy Soong (MM), Denny Arar (AC); 1000-1500 Douglas Grant (MM), Marc Rosaaen (AC); 1500-2500 Anant Rathi (MM), Rob Balas (AC); 2500-3500 Mykaell McCarthy (MM), David Strauss (AC); 3500-5000 Edmund Wu (MM), Don Friedman (AC); 5000-7500 Robert Ng (both), 7500-10000

Steve Smolen (both); 10000+ Mark Ralph (MM), Vicki Lerner (AC). Chris Chen also won the District 21 Mini-McKenney title, and Vicki Lerner won the District 21 Ace of Clubs title. Say congrats when you get a chance.

The unit game schedule marches on with our next event on March 7. Lessons are at 10:45, lunch at 11:15, game at noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough St. at Geary. All are welcome.

QuickTricks will hold its annual celebration honoring club founder Tadd Waggoner on March 16. Join us for pizza, salad, bridge, and fond memories of Tadd. Details on the club website at [www.quicktricks.org](http://www.quicktricks.org).

Seems like half the unit membership moved up in rank this month. Congrats to lots of ladder climbers: new Junior Masters, Daryl Babbitt, Donna Davidson, Ryan Gossiaux, John Kearney, Maggie Lorian, Steve Meeker, Michael Peirce; Club Masters, Karen Beard, Helen Chow, Nathan Chow, Matt Colen, Andrew Eidelhoch, Robert Oconnor, Rob Saken, Kusum Wagle; Sectional Masters, Reinhardt Muir, Kathleene Paul, Linda Payne, Jean Tepper; Regional Masters, Kevin Babcock, Lori Chang, Brigitte Sandquist, Marilynne Solloway; NABC Masters, Lorraine Basson, Terry Grant, George Jeffrey, Herbert Li, Siesel Maibach, Lee Pollak, Stuart Pollak, Ruisheng Shi, Helen Spalding; Life Masters, Barbara Boyle, Dick Wilmington; and Bronze Life Master, Dolores Mackinnon. Well played, all!

Welcome to new member Katie Urdan and transfers Jeffrey Ferro (in-house unit)

and Carolyn Fink (North Jersey). Be sure to say hello to new members when you meet them at the table.

We sadly say goodbye to Unit 506er Richard Rockwell, who learned to play bridge in QuickTricks' Easybridge! classes and became a fixture in its beginner games. Richard led a long and interesting life, into his 90's, filled with friends, travel, his beloved dogs, and bridge. Our condolences are given to his family and friends.

Finally, good luck to everyone going to Columbus for the Spring NABC. San Franciscans Will Zhu and Chris Chen will represent Unit 506 and District 21 in the finals of the North American Pairs Flights B and C, respectively – go get 'em! I was born in Cincinnati, but moved away as a kid and have never been back, so everyone give my regards to the Buckeye State.

## San Mateo

*By Fran Gaura*

February may be the shortest month of the year - even with the addition of Leap Year Day this year - but it was far from the quietest for Unit 498. Two unit games, as well as the annual sectional at Canada College were held. Unfortunately deadlines preclude inclusion of a list of top players in the February 23/24 sectional as well as the February 29 unit game. Congratulations to all the winners in those events.

We can report the outcome of the February 1 unit game in which 56 players enjoyed the hospitality of Fattoria. Top players in the 499er section were Cree Edwards and Ted Eyre, and Gloria and Mike

Halliday. In the Open Section Ed Hornung and Virginia Wailes, Philip and Jennifer Kuhn, and Jon and Lorelei Greenfield took first places.

The annual Ted Richmond Pro/Am game is scheduled for March 21 at Fattoria. This is a great opportunity to meet some of our more experienced players, to pair with them and to pick up some great tips. For purposes of this competition, we are defining our Pros as Life Masters and non-Life Masters with more than 500 points; our Ams are players with NLM status and fewer than 500 Masterpoints. So now is the time for you Ams to solicit your Pro friends and acquaintances whose play you admire to join you for an afternoon of competition and camaraderie. Maybe your Pro can explain a Foster Echo, a Kickback, or a Moscow Escape (these are all conventions described as less frequently played in Conventions at a Glance, Expanded Edition, by Pamela and Mathew Granovetter - a handy pocket sized reference tool).

The winners of the Mini-McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Races for 2019 will also be announced at the Pro/Am game. Plan to be there to recognize the achievements of these folks.

The dedicated team preparing our 2020 Unit 498 Longest Day activities advises that in anticipation of kicking off the 2020 campaign for the Alzheimer's Association fund raiser, we are holding another raffle at our March ProAm unit game for 12 bottles of Merlot, donated by Fred Chasalow. Energy is building as we stockpile prizes for the big Raffle and the Silent Auction, to be held on June 20 this year! Save the Date!

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Mili Delbecq, Rita Gupta, Helen Kishi, Bonnie Leong, Umesh Padval, Robert Seeburger, and Kendall Farrar. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Kristine Birge, Thomas Birge, Darryl Chan, Kai Eckert, Leah Khayter, Anne Palu, Kathy Rudovsky, Kent Taylor, Gary Zellweger, Nancy Zorfas; to Club Master, Rise Cherin, Myrl Dunker, Rebecca Simmons; to Sectional Master, Bob Farkas, Nathan Gennaro, Pete Goldsmith, Barbara Lewis, Marie Parfitt Pattie, Oliver Pieron, Jeanne Urich; to Regional Master, Vivien Moyer, Suzanne Vuko; to NABC Master, David Sweet, Patricia Wong; to Advanced NABC Master, Jeanie Kwong, Aaron Mayerson.

Be sure to check the Unit 498 website, [www.unit498.com](http://www.unit498.com) to get all the up to date info on game schedules and special events.

## **Santa Cruz**

*By Karen Schamberg*

It's time for the 2020 Rising Stars Sectional, Saturday and Sunday, March 28 & 29, open to players with fewer than 500 master points, it will be held at the Mid-County Senior Center in Capitola.



This fun tournament is organized for newer players. Even those who have never played in a sectional before will find games at their level. Co-Chairs Ken Gamble and Carol Avenmarg are putting together another great event with terrific snacks and desserts besides an enjoyable tournament experience.

The games start at 10am on Saturday and Sunday; use the link on our website to access the flyer. If you need a partner for pairs or players for your Swiss team, contact John Wesolowski.

Congratulations to the following folks for attaining new Master status ranks: Steven Smith, Life Master; and Alan Chase & Steven Smith, Bronze Life Master.

Welcome to new members Karen Jackson and Barbara Tidmore.

Congratulations to John Walker who took a first in Sunday Afternoon Swiss and finished in the top 5% of MP earners at the Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional.

If it's classes you want, we've got them. Free lessons are offered on Sundays at noon, Mondays at 6:00 pm, and the 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 am.

Paid instruction is available for Slam Bidding (Ken Llacera), Mondays at 9:30 am; supervised Play (Sydney Reuben), Tuesdays at 12:30 pm; Intro to Defense (Nancy Wainer), Wednesdays at 9:30 am; Beginning Bridge (Nancy Wainer), Wednesdays at 12:30 pm; Beginning Bridge (Bette Harken), Wednesdays at 5:30 pm; Expert at Your Elbow (Ken Gamble), Fridays at 10 am; and Two Over One Workshop (Ken Gamble), 1st & 3rd Saturdays (check website for time). To contact instructors, go to the "Learn Bridge" link on our website.

Our Unit Open Pairs Game will be on Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m.; don't forget to bring a lunch.

Sincere condolences go out to the families of Jerry Goodell and Betty Nash, both of whom passed in January. Belated

condolences go to the family of Roxana Perkins who passed in August.

Unit 550 now has a presence on Nextdoor.com, a great way to connect with prospective players. If you already use Nextdoor, please recommend us by searching for "Bridge" and clicking on "Recommend" for our Bridge Center.

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. To see the Unit 550 schedule and calendar, to get information on our Mentor Program, or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at [www.santacruzbridge.org](http://www.santacruzbridge.org).

## **Santa Rosa/Petaluma**

*By Cecelia Zachar*

Our upcoming sectional is just around the corner, March 7 and 8 at the Odd Fellows Hall in Santa Rosa. The fields in Sonoma Valley are a beautiful emerald green, sheep are munching weeds in the vineyards, and flowers abound. We are so blessed to be living in this beautiful area, and we are happy to share it. So much to see; so much to do. We'll be offering Two Session Open Pairs, Single Session Open Pairs, and Single Session 299ers on Saturday. Pairs with 20 or fewer Masterpoints get their second session free. On Sunday, we will have two session Open teams and B/C/D teams plus a single session 299er team game in the morning. Stratification is based on the individual in the pair or team with the highest Masterpoints, not on the average number of Masterpoints. For more details see <http://acblunit509.org>.

On Saturday, February 8, the Bridge Gallery presented Joy of Duplicate, a free full day introduction to duplicate bridge for social bridge players. We had 6 tables including two players who brought their social bridge friends and two who volunteered to fill in half a table. One pair had earlier taken the Learn Bridge in a Day class and wanted to try the game out. It must have been a good introduction since one pair showed up the following Saturday to play in a 0-2000 stratified pair game. The Bridge Gallery plans to hold this event again next year and hopes you will invite your friends and neighbors who love the party bridge world.

Our February 16 unit game was at the Petaluma Bridge Club. We had 7 tables and lots of healthy hors d'oeuvres. First in A with 65.77% were Cris Barrere and Lynn Blumenthal; in B, Mary Omodt and Cecelia Zachar; and in C, Conrad Larkin and Dana Murphy. Other winners include Joanne Pransky and Debbie Tesler, Jim and Carol Reed, Kathy Venton and Dave Pankratz, Patricia Hertz and Carol Kemper, and Lawson James and Henry Gaw. Congratulations all.

Unit 509 has been soliciting donations for the purpose of installing an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) at the Bridge Gallery. We've had a couple medical scares lately and want to be prepared. We are close to our goal. To insure that we meet it, Richard Zelenski has taken advantage of our extra February day, the 29th, for an AED fundraiser. He's donating his directing fees and upping table fees by a \$5 donation each in order to

get the job done. It should be quite a party. I'll let you know results next month.

The Bridge Gallery will be presenting Bridge Basics II, Competitive Bidding, on Monday Mornings, March 23 through April 27, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This 6-week class covers information when both partnerships are bidding. It will help you and your partner get to your best contract while also making it difficult for your opponents to find their game. Jane Bender will be the instructor. The cost is \$99 with textbook, \$84 without, \$15 per single session, and \$10 to repeat a session. For more information, see <http://santarosabridge.com/classes>.

Many of you remember Larry Hansen. His widow, Valerie, now resides in San Diego but will be in the area to launch her new book, Murder in the Wine Country, A Healdsburg Homicide, on March 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sonoma County Wine Library, 139 Piper Street, Healdsburg.

After a long dry spell, we've had our first 70%+ games since November. Mark Randol and Terry Brown scored up a big 72.92% in Oakmont on January 24. At the Bridge Gallery, Bob Klein and Erwin Linzner scored 71.30% on February 5 and Debbie Tesler and Shirley Blum scored 70.39% on Valentine's Day. At the Petaluma Bridge Club, Gary Robinson and Bob Klein scored 73.93% on February 13. Congratulations all!

At the end of January, the ACBL notified us about 8 players who graduated to a new rank. Our new Junior Master is Jane Drever; Club Master, Jim Taylor; Regional Masters, Bob Goetzinger and Laurie Vree; NABC Masters, Jan Conklin and Lynda

McGuire; Advanced NABC Master, Janice Gullarian; and Bronze Life Master, Tony Jackson. Whooee! Great work everyone. It must have been the SF NABC and Monterey Regional. Nice going, everyone!

## Silicon Valley

*By Ray Yuenger*

After writing this column for two decades, I'm introducing headings for the readers' convenience.



### Upcoming events

Unit 507 is holding a unit game on Sunday, March 22, beginning at noon. It will be an individual game, so you don't need to bring a partner. If you do bring a partner, you'll play together for two or three boards, and then become opponents later. The idea of an individual game is that everyone gets a new partner every few boards. It's a test of basic bridge skills, since you won't have time to agree on a lot of conventions with each partner. This format was very popular last year, so give it a try and see what fun you can have with different partners.

On April 3 through 5 is a Unit 507 Spring sectional. We weren't able to hold one last spring because we were still looking for a new site, but we're quite happy to return to Wilcox High School in Santa Clara after our fall sectional for the Saturday pair games and Sunday team games. Friday evening the sectional will begin with a single pairs session at the San Jose Bridge Center.

You'll find the complete schedule with times and locations in a flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Tournament successes

In recent tournaments, at the Hawaii regional, Morris Chang's team won a knockout. Barbara Luttrell had a stratification top in a two-session pairs game. Beverly Bernhardt had a section top in the Gold Rush pairs.

Carolyn Drozdiak had a section top in Gold Rush pairs at the SoCal Winter regional.

At a non-Life Master sectional in the Palo Alto Bridge Club, George Schlinkert & Margareta Hodzic won a 299er pairs game. Susan Dietz, Joanne Cornbleet, and Thomas Morse won a 749ers team game. Section tops in pairs games were earned by Susan Dietz (749ers), John Stremel & Jeff Weaver (299ers), and Irene & Steven Jacobson (49ers).

At the Livermore Valley sectional, John Stremel had a section top in an Intermediate pairs game.

Because I missed my deadline for this column, I'm able to report the results of the San Mateo sectional that concluded today. Will Watson won the two-session open pairs, in which Edward Lee had a strat top and Li-Chung Cheng has a section top. Anne Wilson & Gerald Hewitt Jr. won a single-session open pairs, while Michael Fleisher & Mindy Foos won another one and John Stremel had a section top.

Winning in their Swiss Teams bracket in San Mateo were Ann & John Wainwright, Shirley Foreman and Sharon Krawetz.

### Rank Advances

Congratulations to our unit's newest

Masters: Hsaun Hsieh, Prabhat Mishra (Junior); Wei Chen, Shiona Deighton, Francine Effren, Rosemarie Sammon (Sectional); Michele Liu, John Stremel (Regional); Andrew Chen, Charlie Chen (NABC); Thomas Feury (Life); Arthur Zhou (Bronze); and James Howe (Sapphire).

### Club News

Lynn Bartz has started up a new social bridge game on Thursday evenings at the San Jose Bridge Center. For the price of \$10, if you arrive at 5:30 p.m., you'll get a free lesson, a light dinner, and the opportunity to play between 12 and 16 boards of bridge ending by 9 p.m., with up to three "lifelines" asking for help in the bidding or the play. The hands are preduplicated, so there are hand records, but no masterpoints are at stake. It's a fun group.

Beginning in February, the ACBL has required directors to upload club game results to ACBL Live for Clubs. This is an expansion of the software that has been notifying you of your tournament results. If you have been receiving game results from Pianola, you will be used to email results for games you just completed. It will be up to the directors whether you'll continue to get results from both services, ACBL Live and Pianola. If your director uses the hands from the Common Game, you may be seeing your results in three formats. Each service offers some unique features. Can you ever have too much of a good thing?

## Stockton

*By Debbie DeZarn*

The Oak Park and Stockton Bridge Clubs have missed quite a few regular players as illness and physical challenges have been rampant. We hope to see those of you back playing in March. We did welcome back Wendy Buchanan who very quickly recovered from her second cochlear implant and now hears in stereo. Also playing again is Carol Hakeem. Some seasonal visitors are back as well: Don Weld from Massachusetts and Mr. and Mrs. Chari from New Jersey.



The Intermediate Player of the Year trophy was awarded to Irmgard Owen in late January. She is one of our club's Golden Age Masters and is a delightful partner. Irmgard has supported the Intermediate game since its inception and more often than not has a high scoring game with her regular partner Earl Jones. She is somewhat famous for her Rum Cake which is served at potluck games. Congratulations Irmgard for earning this recognition.

Rank advancements in February included Mary Hill who reached NABC Master. Needing just a few more gold and silver points for Life Master she will be pursuing more tournament play in the coming months. Sue Vogtlin from Rio Vista (Sonoma Unit) attained Ruby Life Master. Other Stockton Club members who moved up are new Junior Masters Fran Tabak, Mary Westin, and Claudia Prather. Carole Seed achieved Club Master.

Big games since the last issue are a 71.42% by Korey Baumbach and Joan Garcia on 1/31/20 and a 74% by Bill and Ann Nutting on 2/10/20. Congratulations on your great play.

Special games coming up include the ACBL-wide Senior Pairs game on Monday, March 2 at the Stockton Bridge Club. The same hands are played across the country and winners who do well can earn extra points at the District and National level. Because the game won't finish in Hawaii until after 6 pm Stockton time our local results and hand records will not be online until then. But you will know immediately after play how you did in the local game. As a reminder, all players must have been born before January 1, 1960.

Let's all support the Modesto Sectional (Silver Points) on April 4 and 5. Their venue is less than 45 minutes away and lunch is included in the player fee. STaC week at the Stockton Club begins May 4. Mark your calendar so you can play in all your eligible games that week to earn Silver Points.

Tip of the month: To reduce slow rounds, designate a spot where the higher table can place your new boards when passed. Likewise, find out where the table below yours wants their new boards delivered. Try to have at least two of your completed boards off the table and ready for pickup if your table is a bit slow (not YOUR fault, of course).

**Have great news to share  
from your unit? Contact  
*Diamond in the Ruff* Editor  
Rich Luttrell at [luttrellr@  
sbcglobal.net](mailto:luttrellr@sbcglobal.net) and tell him  
all about it!**

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*Diamond in the Ruff* is published monthly by District 21 of the American Contract Bridge League. It is free and posted online at the District 21 web site ([www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)). ©2020 by ACBL District 21. Contents of this magazine may be reproduced in full with proper citation. Mention of any product or service does not constitute endorsement by *Diamond in the Ruff*. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited materials, and reserves the right to reject any editorial or advertising materials.

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