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East Bay By Larry Bowerman (502)

I hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and continues to be well and stay healthy. And Happy Holiday wishes to all!

After a two-year hiatus, on Sunday, October 23, 2022 Unit 502 hosted the ever-popular **Tunnel Tournament**, the friendly competition for "bragging rights" between Units 499 and 502. This year the format was a two-session game (18 boards per session), with competition at the Open level (A, B, and C strats) plus a separate 399er game. This year Unit 502 prevailed and will keep the trophy for another year. Thanks to Grant Vance for his efforts to make the Tunnel Tournament happen!

Thanks to Sandi Davis for compiling the following summary, which appeared in the 10/23/22 EBCBC weekly newsletter:

The annual Tunnel Tournament with the Diablo Valley 499 Unit and our East Bay 502 Unit was held today. The results are in:

In the overalls of the Open game:

- Flight A: (1) Neal Mazaroff and Matt Quint, (2) Ed Seputis and John Eidinger, (3) Jessica Lai and Grant Vance
- Flight B: (1) Don Levine and Richard Springer, (2) Sarah Simmerman and Betty Kael, (3) Bob Barnes and Furqan Naeem

In the overalls of the limited 399er game:

- Marian Renvall and Catherine Brazelton, (2) Jeff Johnson and Sheila Wong, (3/4) Jeff Fountain and Karen Aldridge tied with David Gin and Joyce Jacobson

Unit 502 held its second Sectional this year on November 19 and 20, 2022 at the Mastick Senior Center in Alameda. The new venue was excellent. and attendance was consistent with post pandemic events, ie about 50% of pre-pandemic levels. We are hopeful that 2023 attendance at Unit 502 events will improve. Thanks to Kathy Wolf, Joseph Held and everyone else who helped make this a successful event!

The EBCBC continues to hold both face-to-face (F2F) and some online games. **The latest game schedule and results** can be found by clicking the "Game Schedule and Results" tab on the left side of the Home page of the EBCBC website. All FTF players must be fully vaccinated, and masks are recommended.

In addition, Doug Handler's Piedmont Bridge Club offers virtual games on BBO on Monday at 7:10 pm, Wednesday at 2:10 pm and Thursday at 7:10 pm. Table fees are \$6.00. Contact Doug at 925 938-4493 or dough0918@aol.com.

The Unit 502 games continue on the first and third Sunday of each month at the





EBCBC beginning at 1:00 pm. **As a reminder, if you “scratch,” these games provide Club Championship level masterpoint awards.**

After a two-year hiatus (my new favorite phrase), Unit 502 held its annual **Holiday Party on Sunday, December 4, 2022**. Because of lingering COVID concerns, only festive holiday treats were served. While we had hoped for better attendance, we had six tables, and everyone had a good time. Thanks to Marcia Wasserman, Libby Silver and Joseph Held for making the Holiday Party a success.

Thanks to Tom Pajak and Nadine Levine for the following article about the passing of Rich Leres:



Lastly, I’m very sad to report the passing of Rich Leres. He was a steady player at EBCBC from the time we opened, and before, he taught bridge to beginning players for many years and was a respected partner to many players throughout the years. I can’t say anything better than what his good friend and bridge partner, Nadine Levine, has written to praise his qualities:

“It might surprise you to know, that our easy-going Rich Leres was a strict disciplinarian with his children. Probably something he picked up in the Army, where he was a decorated foot soldier in the Korean War. But even then, he was playing bridge with his neighbors once a week, eating and drinking and smoking cigars. But his brilliance was recognized even then, as he did most of the computer work for the Nobel Prize winning scientists at Berkeley Labs as they searched for and found new elements for the Periodic Table.

“We all met him at Doug’s night games, when we were all young working people. We knew him as one of the best players, and the sweetest. He not only never yelled at his partners, but he was always willing to give advice to newbies like me when I’d ask “How should I have played that?” He loved to teach, and for years, gave lessons through Alameda’s recreational facilities program.

“When he first showed up at Betty’s day games, looking for partners, I ran over there to be the first to ask, to see if he’d deign to play with me. And he did. I think he figured he could train anyone. We never played in any tournaments though; Rich’s weekends were busy driving down and back to a girlfriend in Scott’s Valley he’d met online at Match.com.

“We became a regular partnership, even with our own regular table; and he never lost his temper, he always taught. He finally resorted to a mathematical





proof to convince me of the 'Law of Diminishing Returns.' Whenever it comes up, I will always be thinking of him.

"During the Covid years, I felt lucky that he wanted to continue playing online. It was my reason for getting up at the crack of noon. But he kept looking forward to coming back and playing in person. We did eventually return for a few games, but his health was deteriorating so we continued playing online. We played our last games just the day before he died."

Rest in peace, Rich.

Breaking news from the 12/4/22 EBCBC Newsletter:

Club News

- *From Kathy Wolf, Unit 502 Sectional Chair:* Thanks to everyone who made the Unit 502 sectional a success. The new venue was extremely well received and with the help of a number of volunteers, everything went smoothly. A special thanks to Libby Silver, Joseph Held, Don Levine, and Marcia Wasserman.

- Breaking news from the Nationals that concluded today in Phoenix AZ. Kudos to Jessica Lai and Grant Vance for their first ever win in a Nationally Ranked event!

Welcome to the following people who have transferred into Unit 502 since October 1, 2022:

Patricia Anderson

Dr. Bonnie Macbride

Paul Britto

Sarah Simmerman

Barbara Lanier

Carrie Stoltzfus

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

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements since October 1, 2022:

Club Master: Brad Carson

Well done, congratulations and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

Not sure who will be writing the next column, but please contact me at (lmjtbow@pacbell.net) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.





Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Happy Holidays!

Two months ago, I was hoping 90-degree days were on the way out. Now, though I am not thrilled at the cold weather, I am thrilled to have the rain. Hopefully the rain will stick around; we need it.

Upcoming Events

Pro-Am Team Game is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd. If it goes as planned, there will be a potluck at noon and game at 1 pm.

The Fresno Winter Sectional will be starting on Saturday, February 18th and continue through Monday, February 20th (Presidents Day Weekend). I hope you will come and join us. The [flyer](#) has just been posted by the ACBL and should be in the clubhouse.

Unit News

We have had a lot of events since our last newsletter.

Club Appreciation Pro-Am Teams: Sunday, October 16th was our special Pro-Am Team game. It has become a tradition to have this game during October's Club Appreciation month as it means 5% of the payoff is in gold points. We had 4 teams this time, and everyone won at least one session (so at least .02 gold was won by each who attended. Hey, it is better than nothing). The big winners (based on victory points) were Bill Glass (Captain), Cyndi Tingey, Marion Austin, & Lori Sandersier (now each are .11 gold points richer). A great potluck took place before the game.

Fresno Fall Sectional: Our sectional took place Veterans Day Weekend (November 11-13). As with our sectional last February, we made enough to break even (well, minus a bit for food). However, this sectional showed hints that there is a good future ahead, as we had more out of town visitors than we did last time. Maybe a sign that these tournaments will continue to grow.

Our thanks to Greg Vance (Tournament Director), and our great band of volunteers: Don Austin, Laura Da Costa, Steve Johnson, Jason McAlexander, Mary Lou Pease, Belva Quattrin, Mun Takeda, and Cyndi Tingey (it has been a month, I hope I didn't forget someone). Each helped in some way whether it was bringing food or cleaning up. Congratulations to the President's Award winner for most masterpoints won, Laura Da Costa (yay, me), and Top 99er award winners Matthew Wilkins & Maura Pennington.

Annual Christmas Party/General Meeting: Our holiday party this year took place on December 11th. This year we tried something different for the party/luncheon. We





decided to have the food catered through a local restaurant. The abundance of food came from the little Mexican restaurant around the corner, Maria Taco Shop. We bought food for 50 people, and we had about 45 for the lunch and meeting part, and we still had enough food to give the following two games in the week their own

luncheons. Special thanks to those who helped on cleanup (Steve, Jason, and I am sure others I missed), and thanks to Maura for taking pictures of the lunch, meeting, and game.

Unit President Don Austin started our meeting about 12:30. We had a report from new Treasurer, Lowell Gist. Lowell, thanks to his volunteering with assisting Don's lessons and his last moment acceptance of the Treasurer position, was awarded the Distinguished Service award for this year.



The game that day was the last of a week's worth of Royal Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) games. We decided this year to have both an Open and 499 game. We had 6 tables in the Open game with the winners being Laura Da Costa & Victor Greener. We also had 4 tables in the 499er game with the winners being Judy Pierre & Madeline Lynes. It was a great day with a great lunch.

Member News

Saying Good-bye: We had to say good-bye to some longtime members as Mark & Sally Stern moved to Florida. Both Mark and Sally have served in various Unit 522 positions before, and we will miss them. Hopefully, they will come and visit from time to





time.

Change of Rankings: Only one to report this month as Maura Pennington achieved Club Master level (20 masterpoints).

We have some special games to report, 70% and above:

<i>Pair</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Game</i>
Jerry Noga & John Hempel	74	Tues. Aft. 750 Game (10/11/22)
Lowell Gist & Barbara Thacker	71	Sun. Aft. Open Game (11/20/22)
Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere	70.37	Monday Aft. Open Game (11/28/22)
Bill Glass & Jason McAlexander	71	Wed. Eve. Open Game (12/7/22)
Judy Pierre & Madeline Lynes	70.38	Sun. Aft. 499er Game (12/11/22)

Royal STaC Results: A reminder that Royal STaC’s masterpoints are 25% gold, 25% red, 25% silver, and 25% black. We had some players place in the overall ranking for the Royal STaC—below are total points won for placing in overalls (note: others received points from the clubhouse itself and directors of the games do not qualify in the overall rankings)

Monday Afternoon (12/5), 104.5 tables in Open games, Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere were 3rd (8.93 pts.), Victor Greener & Ray April were 4th (6.70 pts).

Tuesday Afternoon (12/6), 22.5 tables in 749er games, Sandra Beebe & Judy Pardun were 1st (3.15 pts.), Larry Miller & Andrew Graves were 3rd (1.77 pts), Doris Myers & Marilyn Kendall were 6th (.79 pts.)

Wednesday Evening (12/7), 19.5 tables in Open games, Jason McAlexander & Bill Glass were 1st (5.44 pts).

Saturday Afternoon (12/10), 100 tables in Open games, Matthew Wilkins & Victor Greener were 18th (1.77 pts)

Sunday Afternoon (12/11), 131.5 tables in Open games, Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere were 19th (1.44 pts)

Sunday Afternoon (12/11), 17.5 tables in 499er games, Judy Pierre & Madeline Lynes were 2nd (1.97 pts), Elizabeth Mitchell & Pat Snyder were 4th (1.11 pts)

Wow, that was a busy couple of months. I hope you all have a great holiday season. Also, a great New Year! And for those heading to Monterey Regional, Good Luck!

Remember you can keep up with all local events at our website fresnobridge.org.





Marin By Tracey Bauer (508)



Happy Holidays from Marin,

Merriness and joy just happened here in Marin as we all came back together and we had our first in person holiday party with 17.5 tables on December 11th. Generosity and cheer was in abundance as we raised over \$120,000 for Homeward Bound of Marin. Our holiday party has been one of their biggest single day fundraisers for this amazing organization. You can still donate up till the end of the month and put a message for HBoFM that its Unit 508 and one of our bridge players will double match your contribution: hbofm.org/donate

You can look at our Unit Facebook page for pictures of the event:
www.facebook.com/marinbridge

Congrats to these winners from the Holiday Party:

Arti Bhargava and Todd Werby 62.50

Joann Murdock and Gwen Toso 65.08

David Blohm and Sonia Feder 64.58

Carolyn Ferren and Paulette Moe 64.12

We all won that day by being together again and we hope to see more people in the live games find our schedule: marinbridge.com

CONTRATULATIONS TO THESE THREE PLAYERS WHO ACHIEVED THEIR NEXT MASTERPOINT RANKING:

Linda Danzig: Gold Life Master

Bill Bailey: Sapphire Life Master

Tracey Bauer: Diamond Life Master

North American Bridge Championships in Phoenix overall winners from Marin:

National Events:

Nail Life Master Pairs: 34th Mark Peterson

Whitehead Womens Pairs: 11th Place : Tracey Bauer

Senior Mixed Pairs: 19th Place : Carole Liss





Regional Games:

Bracket 1 Round Robin Teams: 3rd place : Margaret Peterson and Anne Stein

Top Flight Swiss Teams: 1st place : Gene Simpson and 6/8th Tracey Bauer, Anne Stein

Top Flight Swiss Teams: 7th place : Anne Stein

Top Flight Swiss Teams: 2nd : Bill Bailey

Open Pairs: 1st place: Carole Liss

Open Pairs: 3rd Place: Arti Bhargava

Fast Pairs: 11th Place: Arti Bhargava

Mentoring Program ReStarted in Marin: Cindy Blum has quite a few mentors and mentees who are playing now. If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor or are a player in need of assistance in the game from a mentor, contact Cindy : cynthiacclarkb@comcast.net.

Ace of Clubs Races in Marin: We have just two weeks left of 2022 who will be our top achievers in each rank category? Check this link to see where you are and get out to one of our local clubs and win the race this year: web2.acbl.org/as400/mpraces/unit/2022/ac508.htm

Mini McKenney for Marin: this race encompasses all points for the year, clubs, sectionals, regionals: web2.acbl.org/as400/mpraces/unit/2022/mm508.htm

On behalf of our unit board here in Marin, we wish you happy holidays and may all your finesses work!

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



The Unit had two advances in Life Master rank in the last two months. Bruce Ruskin achieved the Sapphire Life Master level and Vickie Sweet became a Silver Life Master. Bruce has long been one of the best players in Modesto and he went from Gold Life Master to Sapphire in a very quick time period. Vickie was a long time director of the Merced Bridge Club and also directed several unit games in Modesto, especially Swiss Team games. Congratulations to you both!

Also, John Rollin of Tracy who is a frequent player in our game recently made Gold Life Master. Great going, John!

Marcia Laird, one of our frequent players in the Sunday game, unfortunately





injured her foot one day after she and husband Jim returned to the Sunday game after a trip to England. Luckily the foot has healed well and she is expected to be back without a wheelchair at the Sunday Christmas Party on December 4.

Judy Remmers staged a match point game for her beginning group on November 28. Winners were: Rose and Mike Epting with a 62.5% game, second were Robin Johnson and Ken White, and tying for third were Christine Banuelos/Terry Sciabica and Cathie Peck/Nancey Simas. Regular Modesto duplicate players may recognize Rose and Mike's names as they are now playing regularly in the open game on Tuesdays and have even won some points.

The October Unit Game was paced by Galen Neptune/Ray Adams with a 64.44% game. Galen is very popular in our unit, as he hails from Ceres, but now lives most of the year in Alaska where moose and elk fear his name. Libby Longstreth and Joe Castiglione won the B stratum and also finished fifth in A.

The November Unit Game was swept in all strata by Mile and Mary Wells who finished first in A, B, and C. These out-of-towners do not play that often in our game, but when they do, other players know they need to have their best game against them.

We were able to stage a total of six Sunday games in October and November. High pointers were: (readers should remember that "A" players are not allowed in this game) B, Judy Remmers first, Sharon Cole second, and Jeanne Russo third. In C, Jaime Hamilton paced the field, with Jim Page second, and Marcia and Jim Laird third. High games were the 63.54% by Joyce Rudesill and Cindy Rogers, while Jaime Hamilton and Sharon Cole came in second with 60.12%, and third were also Jaime Hamilton and Sharon Cole with a 56.35% effort.

The high score for the two months was the 69.33% game turned in by Ralph Jungwirth and Jaime Hamilton, while Ray Adams and Galen Neptune had a 67.35 effort, and Bruce Ruskin and John Rollin had a 66.04% game.

High scorers for October and November were: A, Frank Frohman with 20.19, second, Ralph Jungwirth at 15.34, while Ray Adams came in a distant third at 11.93. In B, Sharon Cole amassed a nice 11.82, second was Judy Remmers with 10.97, and third was Gary Capwell at 6.63. In C, Garrard Marsh led all players with 10.32, Jaime Hamilton was second at 8.71, while Jim Page came in third at 4.73. Readers will note that the B players have started closing in on A players, while C players are doing the same to B players. And that's parity in the good old ACBL, the way we like it!

December is Christmas time and that means lots of Christmas parties and hot bridge. Don't forget our STAC games start the week of December 11. Here's hoping Santa puts lots of Master Points in your Christmas stockings this year.





Monterey By Mary Block (530)

Unit 530 is as proud as can be that our long-time member Lyde McReynolds Hussey has been named the District 21 Goodwill Ambassador. The award will be presented in January at the Monterey Clambake. Lyde and her late teaching partner Jill Leach taught beginning bridge lessons for many years. She continues to teach classes and gives mini-lessons at her NLM games, currently on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Bridge Center. She has always exemplified grace and good manners at the bridge table and that while duplicate bridge is often competitive, it should always be FUN.

Starting in January, 2023, the Unit games will be Pizza Parties, \$20 for lunch and game. Tentative dates scheduled so far are Sundays, January 29, February 26, and March 26.

Nina Leitman is now a Junior Master; Ginny Arguello is a new Club Master. David Ow is a new Life Master. Pat Heller has reached Silver Life Master Status and Ewan Eby is a new Ruby Life Master. Congratulations to all.

Welcome to new members of Unit 530: Warren Blut, Rita Harvey, Constance Mazzei, Hermanous Stiphout, and Marijke Stiphout. And we are also happy to have Wendy Castagna and Dr. Philip Duterme transfer into the unit.

As always, be sure to check our Unit website at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530/>. Joe Truskot is doing a wonderful job of maintaining and expanding this site to keep our members up to date. A new feature of the website is a partnership registry to assist members who do not have a regular partner or whose regular partner is unavailable. Contact Mano Singham at mano.singham@case.edu to be included in the registry.

In addition to being our webmaster, Joe also sends out e-mails of interest to our membership. Some of you may have your spam filters set so that e-mails to a mailing list go into your junk folder, so make sure that members@bridgewebsemail.com is in your on-line address book.

We are [bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530](https://www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530/). The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is montereybridgeeducation.org.





Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512)



Happy Holidays Everyone! Regardless of your preferred greeting, I think we all feel happy to see our bridge friends and wish them the best this time of year. We all had a great time at the Halloween Bridge Party at Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club.

As usual John Coulston outdid himself getting this together with the help of other volunteers. Everyone had a great time and the costumes were great. Who would expect to see two beekeepers??



The latest STaC games were well attended and some of our players had their names in lights as follows: on Monday, the 5th of December Jim and Carol Reed, 2nd OA with a 65.93% and Vicki Chang and Don Steedman 7th OA scoring 62.41%. The Tuesday 499er game saw Sandy Hicks partnered with Cynthia Fantacone place 1st OA with a fine 60.00% (how did they get it to be so exact?) and Carol Kupsoff playing with Arlene Holt placed 2nd OA with a 56.11%. On Wednesday Jerry Besses and Bob Goetzinger placed 6th OA with a 63.02% score. Congratulations to all of you for a fine showing!

Napa Bridge Club held its Club Championship recently with Tom Jacobson and partner first OA at 65.05%, Jerry Besses and Wayne Miller following in second place with 57.91% The Vintage Duplicate BC Club Championship was a tight race, Tom Jacobson and Kate Hill taking first OA with a fine 66.04; Anita Pensler and Phil Shoemaker were nipping at their heels to place second at 65.83 and Kathleen and Clyde Smith were 3rd at 57.09%. Tom had better watch his back...there may be a target painted on it 😊.

Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club has its holiday party planned for Monday, December 19th. It's a potluck starting at 10:45. The club will provide a ham and the members are encouraged to bring their favorite side dishes or desserts. January 19th VDBC has a Pro-Am Game scheduled. Early signups are encouraged so please contact either John Coulston (707-696-7937) or Eileen Holsten (707-933-1444). The last Pro-Am was a huge success...you don't want to miss it.

I hope to see many of you at the Regional in Monterey the first week in January. If I don't see you there, consider this your Happy New Year greeting a bit in advance. Let's all get back to the tables and continue to enjoy bridge and fellowship like we used





to pre-Covid!

Sigrid Price, President, ACBL Unit 512

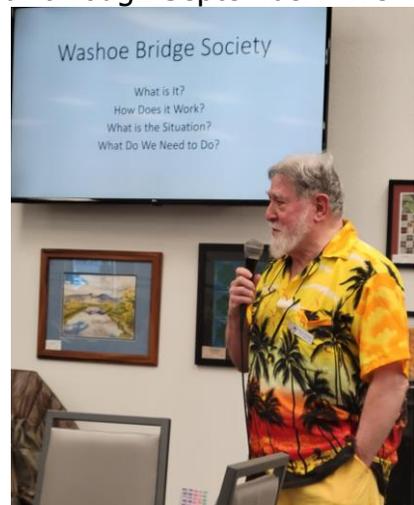
Reno By Sandra Haslem (473)



“Wrapping Up” the 2022 Happenings at the Mathewson Bridge

We held our Annual Meeting and pizza party at the Center Nov. 15 following the weekly Pro-Am game. President Paul Ferber reported that to date, we had 2214 Total Tables of Play in 2022, which puts us in rank #5 for District 21. Unit 473 has ranked #1 in District 21 in New Members in the last year through September. We are proud of this and are thankful for our mentors, teachers and recruiters, and newbie-friendly game options. Our new members are a delightful group and are welcomed by more experienced players in regular practice sessions, mentored games and a wide range of classes.

Paul also discussed recently approved changes to our Board Member election process, including the option for members to nominate themselves or others for the Board positions. This is in addition to nominations presented by the Board based on recommendations of a Nominating Committee. Voting was completed Nov. 29. Welcome to our three newly elected Board Members: Richard Bartlett, Tam Gandert and Gil Ramirez.



Don Rogers, Founder and Treasurer of the Washoe Bridge Society provided a financial report and overview of the needs of the Center moving into the future.

Gil Ramirez acknowledged and provided free plays to our 2021 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Club Winners.

Treasurer Mark Lundblad provided a Financial Report for the Unit noting we have steadily increased our accounts over the last 2 years.

Tournament Chair Sandy Haslem reported on our three Sectionals held in 2022: 2 Open, and 1 Limited Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N). Sectional financials show we were profitable for all three. Nov. 9 we held our first Limited I/N Sectional at the Center. Although attendance was affected by the Las Vegas Regional, we finished the





day in the black and successful attendees earned Silver Master Points. Our 2023 sanctioned tournaments include 2 Open Sectionals in 2023 (April and August) and plans are in process for 6 Limited I/N Sectionals.

Jill Wallace informed the membership of all the bridge activities in 2022 that target our newest members and those players seeking to improve their bridge play. These include: 1) Twelve bridge classes in 2022 for beginner to intermediate players; 2) Two Learn Bridge in a Day?® workshops; 3) Weekly coaching sessions with several of our experienced members and; 4) Monthly Newcomer games. Jill also hosted a Student Appreciation party in September which was attended by over 50 students.

Special Unit events in 2022 included a Summer Picnic at the home of our Members Barbara and JR Chism and a "Robert Todd Day" held at our Mathewson Bridge Center.

Speaking of "Wrapping Up," members are contributing to our "Toys for Tots" and food drive for the season, complete with our Olive-Garden catered Holiday Party December 13. Thanks go out to our Hospitality Chairs Marie Ernst and Leslie Dahm who provide us with such great service, parties, and door prizes/gifts ... not to mention the home-made cookies.

Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy 2023 to all!

San Francisco By Kimberly Fanady (506)

2022 has been a comeback year for San Francisco bridge! Our face-to-face clubs, QuickTricks and Sunset, are thriving and growing. Our online clubs, Card/Tricks, Sunset, Pips, and SFBC, continue to offer a great alternative and draw many players. And our face to face unit games are well attended and lots of fun. On December 10 Unit 506 capped off a successful year with 20 tables in play and a a sumptuous feast at the annual Holiday Party. Congrats to open game overall winners Gary Porter/David Strauss (70%!), Nancy Gunn/Bob Klein, first N/S, and 499er game overall winners Tom Pellicioni/Mary Castiglia (71%!!) and David Lansky/Patricia Cericola, first E/W. Everyone dined well on the turkey and ham provided by the unit, plus wonderful side dishes, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts brought by our loyal and talented unit members. Lots of fun and festivity!

QuickTricks' holiday party will take place on December 19 and also promises to be a fun event with fabulous food. Come celebrate the holidays with a game of bridge among friends. Looking forward to the new year, the always wonderful winter sectional returns to St. Mary's Cathedral on January 21 and 22. Get your partner and teammates and be there!

Welcome to our newest unit member, Ramona Dragnea, a proud graduate of the QuickTricks beginner lesson program. Welcome also to our transfers, Bob Britt (Diablo Valley) Kim Maxwell (Connecticut) and Steve Mico (Diablo Valley). Say a real or virtual





hi to these new players when you meet them at the real or virtual table.

Congrats to our masterpoint ladder climbers: new Club Masters Ryan Gossiaux and Sue Rushakowsky, and new Sapphire Life Master Larry Kolton. As a special holiday treat, Shazia Makhdumi, festive in a Santa hat, got her last tiny fraction of a silver point and made Life Master at the aforementioned unit holiday party. Way to go, everyone!

Finally, after 26 years your faithful columnist is retiring. This is my last column for the Heart of the District. It's been great fun reporting on bridge in San Francisco all these years. Here's to the continued growth of our terrific bridge community, and more and better bridge in the years to come.

Happy holidays everyone! See you at the table.

San Mateo By Melanie Mauldin (498)

We welcome new, reinstated, and transferred Unit members:

Sonia Bubar	Burlingame	Walter Hoeger	Hillsborough
William Chung	Brisbane	Carol Tessler	San Mateo
Liam Edwards	Woodside	Lucille Thurston	Burlingame
Nora Frei	Belmont	Tak (Oliver) Yip	San Carlos
Renate Hoeger	Hillsborough		

Congratulations to our new Master Achievers:

Junior Masters

- Francene Gonek
- Jayson Lee
- Rita Lee

Regional Masters

- Rebecca Simmons

NABC Master

- Prashanth Sriram

Advanced NABC Master

- Debbie Carey

Bronze Life Master

- Susan Papiilon

Silver Life Master

- Nersi Nazari

We held our Fall Non-Life Master Sectional at the Villa on October 29. The 749ers and 199er games in the morning drew 11 tables. Becca Simmons and Kai Eckert were first overall in the 749er, followed by Jackie Lowenberg and Mike Halliday, who finished





first among the N-S pairs. In the 199er, Kristine and Thomas Birge were first overall, and Ryan Gossiaux and David Gin placed first in the N-S section. There were eight tables in the afternoon 749er. Cecilla Muaddi and Frankie Ferguson were first overall, playing E-W. Three N-S pairs tied for first in that section: Judy and Doug Weil, Sheila Wong and Christie Noble, and Gloria and Mike Halliday. Thanks to all who played, and to Jennifer Kuhn for directing.

Our last mentor-mentee game of 2022 was on October 27, and drew 10 tables. A robot was needed to substitute for an absent player. Elizabeth Molumphy and Robert Ng placed first overall, and, excluding the robot from the results, Ken Hoeck and Jim Van Ness came in first in the N-S section. Thanks to Art Quey for directing the game. Also, thanks to all our mentors this year.

One highlight of our year was that Unit 498's total of \$25,098 raised in the Longest Day campaign was the seventh highest in the country.

In our November Unit game, Ken Hui and Siuling Ku came in first in the Open game, and Steve Nessler and Dan Banks took first place in the N-S section. In the 499er, Kristine and Thomas Birge won, followed by Judy Olson and Helen Kishi. Thanks to Raad Bunni for directing.

By the time you read this, the Unit will have celebrated with our Holiday Party, and we'll have a new board ready to offer more events for 2023. Thanks to everyone who served on the board in 2022. Our next Sectional is scheduled for February 25-26 at the bridge center in Mountain View.

We wish you all a merry holiday season, fun with friends and family, and, for 2023, many hours of sociable bridge, and, of course, masterpoints in a variety of colors.

Santa Cruz By Rick Zinman (550)



Our unit will continue to follow COVID health and safety guidelines provided by Santa Cruz County. Currently, masks are optional.

Currently, FTF open pairs are Tuesday and Friday at 10AM and Wednesday at 6PM. BBO games are Tuesday at 6:30PM for 499er. Check the SCBC website for the current schedule of games.





High Scoring Games

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pair Names</u>	<u>Score</u>
11/30/22	Marilyn Calciano – Andrew Calciano	70.0%
12/07/22	Rick Zinman – Josh Karter	76.4%

Scoring Milestones

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>
James Miller	Club Master
Bette Harken	Bronze Life Master
Jeanne Jorgensen	Junior Master
Barbara Rodriguez	Junior Master
Katherine Stone	Junior Master
Jared Boggs	Sectional Master
Marilyn Calciano	Sectional Master
Diana Schilling	Ruby Life Master

In Memoriam

Two longtime members of The Santa Cruz Bridge Center recently passed away.

Jeff Belden died on October 19, 2022 when he fell from a cliff in Utah while doing something he loved very much, hiking in scenic locations.

Irma Andrews died on November 21, 2022 with her loving husband, Peter, at her side.

A Celebration

Liesel Sabloff, a longtime member of the Santa Cruz Bridge Center, recently published an autobiographical book entitled, *Liesel: A Century Observed*, about her odyssey from Nazi Germany to the Netherlands, Canada, and ultimately ending up in Santa Cruz. A special bridge club game and book signing was held in her honor on Friday, October 14th at the Bridge Center to celebrate the publishing of her book. Liesel summarized her love of bridge at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center with a family tradition, a poem. Here is a portion of that poem:





This bridge club is so very important to my life
It helps me to make new friendships as I strive
To exist without the old ones that are all gone
To the hereafter as I continue to live on.
It is said that this game we play with such delight
Keeps our brain functioning I hope they are right.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)



It's been raining in Sonoma Valley! Most years that would not be great news, but with dry years having stacked up year after year, it's cause for celebration. The fields are green already. Green is a beautiful color in our fields.

Which leads to news about our Spring Sectional. If you've been in Sonoma Valley in the Spring, you will know how gorgeous it is. Lambs eating away the weeds in vineyards. Flowers everywhere. Maybe you would want to come to our sectional a day early or stay a day late. Visit a winery or two. The sectional is Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5. The venue is the Petaluma Community Center. Petaluma is known for its restaurants. As usual, we will have pair games on Saturday at 10 am and 2:30 pm and teams on Sunday starting at 10 am. Soft drinks, water, tea, and coffee are offered free of charge. Saturday you are on your own for lunch, but there is a Trader Joe's across the street and many other lunch spots close by. On Sunday, Jackie Ortiz has graciously offered to bring lunch for everyone. As usual, the best match maker I know, [Kathy Venton](#), is Partnership Chair.

We celebrated the season on December 11 at the Petaluma Bridge Club. Lunch was catered with sandwiches and salads furnished by Lombardi's Gourmet Deli & BBQ and sweets to die for provided by our members. We had 17 tables. Many of us saw friends we had not seen in almost 3 years. It was so good to be together again. In the open game, 1st E/W were





Gary Robinson and Larry Borsian with 63.3%; 1st N/S, Jackie Ortiz and Patricia Gittings with 58.65%; 1st in B and C, N/S, Jeremy Brott and Kim Fusch with 58.33%; and 1st in B E/W, Ed Flowers and Janice Gallarian with 49.04%. In the 299er, 1st in A were Margaret Senneff and Jane Bender with 68.75%, and 1st in B were Donna Edwards and Steve Carey with 56.94%.



We elected 3 new board members this month: Roy Redlich, Kathy Netz, and Patty Shribbs. Congratulations. They will be serving with our other board members Harley Conner, Dave Pankratz, Maxine Reagh, and Neill Ray.

Unit 509 continues to have live games at the Bridge Gallery once a week on Thursdays at noon at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 North McDowell, Petaluma. In addition, Kathy Venton continues to run an ACBL Virtual Games on BBO on Saturdays for players with <2000 masterpoints at 11:45 am. For more information or help finding a partner, see santarosabridge.com.

We lost 2 of our players in November. One of our board members, Jim Duport, was lost in a tragic accident in Antarctica. We also lost Bruce Emmons of Bottle Barn fame.

Since our last newsletter, we had only one Live 70+% game. Laurie Vree and Richard Zalenski scored 71.83% In Oakmont on October 21.

On BBO, Roy Redlich and Hans Van Boldrik came in 1st out of 168 pairs scoring 75.99% on October 17. Panette Talia scored 71.31% for a 1st out of 286 tables with Tania Reyes on a Wednesday in October and 72.63% with Richard Perry on October 24. On November 15, Lynn Blumenthal and Evelyn Holtz scored a big 73.54% for 1st out of 70 pairs. On December 2, Howard Balfour scored 71.88% in the new free 8 board instant game. Then on December 4, Mark Hersko and Debbie Tesler scored 70.12% for 3rd out of 94 pairs in a Speedball game.

Congratulations to Jeremy Brott, our newest Regional Master; Rose Marie Johnson, our newest Silver Life Master; and Denis Racine, our newest Sapphire Life Master.





Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



I composed my last unit column a little over eight weeks ago. There has been only one monthly unit board meeting in that time period, with the next scheduled in a couple of days.

There have been encouraging developments involving the return of face-to-face bridge to Santa Clara County.

On October 29 and 30, Unit 507 held a sectional at the site of the Palo Alto Bridge Club, courtesy of the Unit 503 Board. The results are reported below.

On November 19, Unit 507 held a holiday party with the Unit supplying some (slightly dry) turkey and members contributing tasty potluck dishes and desserts. There were 17 tables of players in the open stratified section and 4 tables in the limited pairs. In the open game, Marcia & Bob Dean were first overall, with Diane & Lynn Shannon first in the other direction. Rakesh & Rajeev Gupta were first in the B and C stratifications. In the limited game Pamela Meckenstock & Judy MacArthur placed first. It was an enjoyable time. If we want such games to pay for themselves, we'll have to increase the table fees.

On December 7, Lynn Yokel held a test run of a bridge club game in a room at the United Methodist Church in Campbell. Due to the room size, attendance was limited to ten tables of players who had preregistered online. It was a full house. Anne Dudman & Colin Hemsley were first overall, with Lynn Bartz & Ken Imboden first in the other direction. The top four pairs were within one matchpoint of each other. A new section was created on the sjbridge.org website to list the results of face-to-face games.

The Silicon Valley sectional at the end of October was bookended by two Palo Alto sectionals (and other tournaments). In the first PABC sectional, Michael & Kevin Rosenberg won a two-session open pairs game. Earning section tops in the same event were Rich Reitman, Stu Goodgold & Ray Yuenger, and Cadir Lee. Xiaoling Lai & Li Zhang won a 499ers game. Manoj Thawani & Rajeev Gupta were first in a side pairs game. Lynn Shannon & John Miller were on the first-place Swiss team.

In a regional at sea in October, Michael Fleisher placed first in two open stratified pairs events and one Swiss teams event.

At the Santa Cruz sectional, Betsy Wagner & Jan Pfiffner won an I/N pairs event.

At the Silicon Valley sectional, Kevin Rosenberg won the two-session pairs event. Ken Rosenfeld and Michele Liu each had stratification tops in the same event. Pamela Meckenstock & Barbara Roupe were first in a 499er event. Karen Kulander won a side pairs event. Lynn Shannon & John Miller were on the winning Swiss team.





At the second Palo Alto sectional, Arif Janjua, Clark Millikan & Floyd McWilliams were on the first-place Swiss team. Bharat Kamdar won one 499er pairs event and Bill Roman & Monica Bacon-Proctor won another one. Paul Nelson & Norman Marks had a section top in a two-session open pairs event. Daren Kuo & Luen-Jyh Luo won a side pairs game.

At the Las Vegas regional, Bruce Luttrell's team won one round robin, Jim Liu's team won another round robin, and Kevin Rosenberg's team won a third.

At the East Bay sectional, Arif Janjua won a two-session pairs event. A team with Aravin Alwan & Pradeep Verma prevailed in their bracket.

Kevin Rosenberg had a spectacular showing at the fall NABC in Phoenix. He was on the winning team of the Soloway Knockout and placed second in the Reisinger Board-a-Match. Michael Rosenberg was on the third place Reisinger team. Lynn Shannon & John Miller were tenth in the Nail Life Master pairs. Frank Xie's team won the under 10,000 NABC Swiss and he placed sixth in the under 6,000 Blue Ribbon pairs.

In regional pairs events at the NABC, Michael Fleisher & Norman Marks won a two-session fast pairs event. Gang Zhao had a stratification top in a two-session pairs event. Michele Liu had a section top in a mid-flight pairs event. In team events, Vilas Namjoshi & Anne Wilson's team prevailed in their bracket.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Nikolay Mechev, Carol Reid (Junior); Renee Cantu (Sectional); Ramesh Bhambhra (Life and Bronze); Ed Logg (Silver); Arij Janjua (Ruby).

Looking into the new year, I believe the plan is to reopen the club at the United Methodist Church the third week of January. Lynn Yokel will be providing notice to players and probably requesting reservations again.

I hope you've survived 2022 with your health intact.





Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



Season's Greetings to all our Unit Members and other regulars at the Unit's 6 (counting one online) bridge clubs. The Stockton Club has a Christmas Quilt on display this month, again created by Maryanne Sievers and we have a photo!

On Thursday December 8, players from Murphys, Angels Camp and Sonora enjoyed a delicious brunch at Ironstone Winery, followed by 12 tables of duplicate bridge. Some Stockton and Modesto Club players attended as well. The Stockton and neighboring Valley players will have a holiday potluck luncheon on December 14th at the Oak Park Senior Center with friends and non-members invited as well.



STaC week just finished so I hope many of you appreciated the extra points of various colors. Paula Monroe and Dee Adams were first overall in the District with a 66.92% game in their 499er game December 8. Also winning their very first (partial) Gold Points were: Irmgard Owen, Margie Baldwin, Claudia Prather, Joan Simpson, Jerry Barnes, and Aurene Schene. But it was the Silver portion that put Irmgard over to become a

Regional Master. Congratulations Irmgard on reaching that Milestone!

Also achieving new ranks in October, Debbie DeZarn became a Silver Life Master and Sylvester Price reached Club Master. Bill Mitchell just hit Silver Life Master on December 13 after two consecutive "scratches" with Debbie DeZarn.

The fearsome foursome of Joy Gotelli, Rose Knutson, Debbie Greenberg, and Sue Vogtlin attended the Reno Regional and a Regional at Sea in October winning all the gold needed by Debbie for her next rank. Mike and Mary Wells attended the Fall NABC in Phoenix and returned with over 16 points, mostly gold. This was a followup to their success at the Ventura Halloween Regional in which they won nearly 15 gold. There is a related article, complete with costumes, on the Unit Website. Joining them at both of those events as well as attending the Las Vegas and Puerto Vallarta Regionals, Howard Parker III earned approximately 83 gold and 88 platinum points in those 4 events! In





his quest for a National Championship, Howard placed 2nd overall in the Senior Mixed Pairs. Since Howard is usually home for Christmas, perhaps we will see him in his local Stockton Club later this month.

Friday lessons are on hold until January when Lorna Crooks will resume teaching if there is still enough interest. It is a great opportunity to learn a concept then play several pre-made boards to reinforce the bidding and defense or declarer play.

The Stockton Club is exploring holding a Pro-Am game some Sunday afternoon in the new year. Please contact Wendy Buchanan if you are a player under 300 points who is interested in playing with a more experienced player and getting a little coaching on declarer play, bidding, and defense. We are especially interested in recruiting "Pros" who can adapt to any basic system of play and are willing to coach someone for one game (or more).

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday this month and joins in the effort to increase face to face attendance in 2023. The Stockton Club is warm again and members have been generous in bringing food and goodies to share.

