



Contents

Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond By Mark Kornman/The Beer Dude (497). 2

East Bay By Tom Pajak (502) 2

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522) 3

Gilroy/Morgan Hill/Hollister By Jim Craig (524) 6

Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)..... 10

Marin By Melanie Haddad (508) 11

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)..... 13

Monterey By Mary Block (530) 14

Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Thomas Sheahan (512) 15

Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)..... 16

Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)..... 20

San Francisco By Denny Arar (506) 22

San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)..... 22

Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550) 23

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)..... 26

Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507) 29

Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)..... 31





Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond By Mark Kornman/The Beer Dude (497)

RIP Helen Studabaker & Miye Takeuchi. Details next column – MJK

East Bay By Tom Pajak (502)



Well, folks, it's lovely to see April when the drizzly weather changes to sunny springtime. If you were staying indoors this winter and not coming out to play live bridge face-to-face, then now's the time to show up at a few bridge games and meet your old friends and enemies (LOL)!

One suggestion I have for you to plan...the 10th Annual "Tunnel Tourney" occurring on Saturday April 27th. This is a contest we've held for a long time pitting members of Unit 502 against players from Unit 499 on the other side of the Caldecott Tunnel—so you see how the tournament's name fits in, right? The rules require that all players from "our" side be aligned with East Bay Unit 502, while the opponents all must be members of Unit 499. It's a lively and friendly competition mainly to generate camaraderie and enjoy a delicious lunch between sessions. And the piece de resistance is a gorgeous trophy (well, actually it's only a plaque) that goes to the winning unit to display in their club for the year, bragging of their victory. Now of course, we want Unit 502 to win it back this year, don't we? So clear your calendar and grab a partner and be prepared for battle on April 27th. See [this flyer](#) for all details.

As I write this, I am one day away from flying to New Zealand to board the Grand Princess for a 3-week sailing of the South Pacific visiting Fiji, Tahiti, and Hawaii on my way back to San Francisco. Accompanied by my younger sister who, like me, enjoys the tons of sea days this cruise offers we'll relax and enjoy the ambiance such a cruise offers. I'll have pictures for you in my next column, but for now...bon voyage to me and play nicely while I'm away.

Two upcoming events you should be aware of:

Saturday May 11th at the East Bay Community Bridge Center...Our Pro/Am game giving newer players the chance to have a personal mentor at their side in a full-sized game with the opportunity to discuss hands afterwards. It's a rewarding opportunity for both the Pro as well as for the Am. As the date draws closer, watch for further details in the weekly EBCBC newsletter and plan to sign up to play.

Saturday & Sunday June 22/23 is the East Bay Sectional Tournament held, once again, at the Mastick Senior Center in Alameda. This is a great location with lots of free parking on site and a spacious, comfortable playing room. It's easy to get to and the





facility is welcoming. Games start at 10:30 am and the table fee is \$15. You can purchase a full lunch for \$10, which most players have been doing for the convenience. Coffee, tea, and various snacks are also provided by Unit 502 board members.

A link for the tournament flyer is [here](#).

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello everyone. A lot has happened at our clubhouse since our last issue in mid-February—the Sectional, a St. Patrick’s Day party, a Mentoring game/lesson, and even a COVID shutdown for a few games.

Past Events

Fresno Winter Sectional: Our sectional took place from Saturday, February 17th through Monday, February 19th (Presidents Day Weekend). Great news! It



Fresno Winter Sectional 2024

was bigger than last year--a nice trend with this Winter Sectional since we reopened post COVID. Our thanks to the wonderful team contributing to make this tournament run so smoothly. That team starts with Lynn Yokel (Tournament Director. Hope you come back Lynn!) and Steve Johnson (Partnership Chair). We had an amazing hospitality team including Laura Da Costa, Mary Lou Pease, Cyndi Tingey, Anthony Toto, and Judy Zimmerer. This team, along with the Unit, kept us well fed with lunches each day. Also, thanks to Don Austin and Steve Johnson, for their contributions on serving lunches and coffee duty. These individuals and many others also provided snacks and helped with clean up. As always, we had amazing refreshment donations both with food items and cash donations. Thank You!

Overall, we had 74.5 tables in this 3-day sectional (up 2.5 tables from last year). The big winners were President’s Award winner Victor Greener (2nd year in a row), and Top 99er winner was Barbara Diebert. Thanks to all who attended and congratulations to all 75 players who won masterpoints.

St. Patrick’s Day Party: The Board of Director’s are always looking for a reason to have a special event on a Sunday, so we were excited to see that St. Patrick’s Day





was going to be a Sunday. We decided to cook up some corned beef—donated by Margot Cegielski (thanks Margot). We had a potluck for the side dishes, and we had a nice and yummy supply of great food. We even had a little Baileys Irish Cream and nonalcoholic Irish cream syrup to brighten up some coffee.

We ended up with 5 tables for both the Open and 499er games! Winners in the Open game were Laura Da Costa & Ray April. In the 499er game, winners were: N/S Maura Pennington & Matthew Wilkins (Overall winners) and E/W Don & Doris Myers.

Mentoring Lesson/Game: We had such rave reviews last October when we had a Mentoring lesson that we had another one on April 7th (we had to postpone it for a month due to a COVID weekend shutdown in early March). This Mentoring Lesson was another success with 5 tables showing up for the 2 ½ hour lesson. Players were able to play with (or against) the Mentor stationed North at each table. The five Norths were Howard Arquette, Laura Da Costa, Lowell Gist, Mary Lou Pease, and Anthony Toto, with a few other experienced players mentoring and playing for the day (Don Austin, Steve Johnson, & Carol Miller). Once again, we only heard great things from all in attendance, so expect it to occur again before the end of the year.

Upcoming Events

Pro-Am Team Game: This popular team game and potluck will be held on April 21st (this Sunday, if you read this issue soon after we send it out). No partners needed as we will be drawing teams at 12:45. Potluck lunch starts at noon. Figure the game will end at 4:30 pm.

Richard Meffley Memorial Game: We renamed the Peggy Ochs Memorial Game after Richard two years ago, and then we forgot to have the game last year. Oops. So, our game on the first Sunday of May (May 5th this year) will be honoring those members we have lost over the past two years: Steve Blumberg, Bob Cross, Joycelyn Kauder, Carol Kaufman, Jim McKoane, Larry Miller, Paul Messner, Roger Moon, Ann Sadler, & Carolyn Smith. If I left someone off the list, please let me know. The Board of Directors decided to provide a barbecue lunch to celebrate spring at the same time. So, come at noon for a burger/hot dog and some potato salad, and spend a bit of time





sharing memories of those we have lost.

Royal STaC Week: Once again, we will be participating in the Western Conference's Royal Sectional Tournament at Clubs. This week-long tournament pays 25% gold points, 25% red points, 25% silver points, and 25% black points. The tournament will be held in each of regular pair games from May 6th-11th.

Longest Day Marathon: Yes, we are doing it again. Four games in one day! The ACBL allows us to set up these Charity games for any day during the week of the Longest Day (which is a Thursday this year), so we will once again have it on a Saturday. So, makes plans to join us on June 22nd for 1 to 4 games from 6 am to the end of the fourth game, around 6:30. Flyers are already available in the clubhouse.

Members News

Individual Achievement: Don Austin has attended a Best Practices Workshop designed to train teachers on the best way to teach beginning bridge. He has now earned certification as a Best Practices Teacher. Congratulations Don!

New Member: We would like to welcome our newest member, Lori Alcantara of Fresno!

Change of Rankings: New rankings for February & March 2024

Junior Masters

- Vinod Balasa
- Norma Kaser

Sectional Master

- Maura Pennington

Ruby Life Master

- Patrick Carroll

Sapphire Life Master

- Dana Brown

Diamond Life Master

- Blake Rundquist





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

Pair	Percentage	Game
Fred Schellack & Margot Cegielski	70.00	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (2/24)
Jackie Finn & George Efthemon	72.92	Tues. Aft. 750 Game (2/29)
Linda Arredondo	71.88	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (3/8)
Norma Kaser	71.88	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (3/22)
Fred Schellack & Margot Cegielski	71.43	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (3/23)
Belva Quattrin & Robert Durbrow	75.93	Sat. Aft. Open Game (3/30)
Robert Durbrow & Barbara Thacker	70.83	Sat. Aft. Open Game (4/13)

Beginning Bridge Lessons: Don Austin will be starting a new beginning bridge class as part of Clovis Adult Education. This 8-week class will be Tuesday evenings at 6:15 pm in the clubhouse starting on May 7. If you know someone that has expressed interest in learning bridge, let them know about this course.

That was a lot of news for one issue. Next issue will be in June. In the meantime, keep up with what is going on in the clubhouse on our Website at fresnobridge.org.

I hope you will make plans to join us for the Pro-Am Team Game, Memorial Game, Royal STaC week, and the Longest Day.

Gilroy/Morgan Hill/Hollister By Jim Craig (524)

Face-to-face play continues to grow in Unit 524. Stone’s game on Thursday at Gilroy Senior Center remains solid. The Hollister (Buena Vista) has moved to Casa de Fruta on Tuesdays for now. The game is sometimes up to 5 tables, with more possible. Call Skip and come join us in this new big space.

TOURNAMENTS

The highlight of the past two months was “friend of the Unit” Janet Bernhardt, traveling to Kentucky to participate in the 2024 Spring NABC in Louisville, KY. Janet pulled down first place in a 0-99 MP game, winning a trophy as well as TRIPLING her lifetime Master Point total. Janet has been playing bridge only 18 months, having taken beginning lessons from another “friend of the Unit,” Betsy Wagner, and with encouragement from her good friend Anne Wilson. Traveling to her first NABC, Janet played for seven days and had an incredible time (her words). Lots of fun. At this rate, she won’t be in the 0-99 MP category very long. Well done and congratulations Janet!





MINI-MCKENNEY/ACE OF CLUBS

At the March Unit game, awards were given out to the players who won the most Master Points in their rank, within Unit 524, during calendar 2023. The Mini-McKenney (MM) is for the member, in each rank, who earns the most total Master Points during the year. The Ace of Clubs (AoC) is for the member, in each rank, who earns the most Master Points playing in club games only, which includes face-to-face, as well as BBO virtual club games. Note that the Master Point listing for each ranking is not the only requirement. There are specific color requirements for a portion of the points in each rank. Also, some categories are not listed because the Unit did not have any members who qualified in that rank in 2023. This includes the ranks of: Junior, Diamond, Emerald and Grand Life Master.

The members recognized were:

Rookie (0-5) Arlene Greenberg (MM & AoC)

Club Master (20-50) Geff Kinn (MM & AoC)

Sectional Master (50-100) Matt Rode (MM & AoC)

Regional Master (100-200) Sue Comporato (MM & AoC)

NABC Master (200-300) Lesley Waltner (MM & AoC)

Advanced NABC Master (300-500) Dennis Rubida (MM), Suzanne Proctor (AoC)

Life Master (500-1,000) Norm Dow (MM), Lorrie Scott (AoC)

Silver Life Master (1,000-1,500) Patrick Arnett (MM), Margot Kakalec (AoC)

Ruby Life Master (1,500-2,500) Vinny McLoughlin (MM & AoC)

Gold Life Master (2,500-3,500) Jim Craig (MM & AoC)

Sapphire Life Master (3,500-5,000) Win Stone (MM & AoC)

Platinum Life Master (10,000+) Tony Glynne (MM & AoC)

MONTHLY UNIT GAME

The monthly Unit Game is the third Sunday of the month. The Unit 524 has invited players from all Units to come join us for the Unit game in Morgan Hill, especially those Units who have lost playing space and are short on face to face games. Upcoming Unit games are on April 21, May 19, and June 16.





The **February 18** Unit Game Open section had 5 tables.

Flight A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

Flight B – Betsy Wagner & Li Zhang

0-499 Section was 5 tables. Overall winners were:

Flight A – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly (68%)

Flight B & C – Janet Bernhardt & Geff Kinn

The **March 17** Unit Game Open game was a 7 table Howell. Overall winners were:

Flight A & B – Norm Dow & Mark Moore (66%)

Flight C – Don McCown & Barbara Earley

0-499 Section was 6 tables. Overall winners were:

Flight A – Lesley Waltner & Matt Rode (68.75%)

Flight B – Janet Bernhardt & Carolyn Wilson

Flight C – Dave Glashan & Nancy Samson

CLUB GAMES

The **Tuesday** game in **Hollister** (Buena Vista Bridge Club) is held at 11:00 am at Casa de Fruta, on Highway 152, at least for the time being. This small game is generally just 3-4 tables but is open to all. Winners over the past two months:

Feb 13 – Dave Glashan – Nancy Sampson

Feb 20 – Win Stone – Jim Craig (80%)

Feb 27 – Linda & Ron King (72%)

Mar 12 – Patrick & Liega Arnett

Mar 19 – Jim Craig - Win Stone

Mar 26 – Barbara Earley – Suzanne Proctor

Apr 09 – Jim Craig – Win Stone

The **Thursday** game in **Gilroy** (Stone's Game) is at the Senior Center across from City Hall and adjacent to the Police Station, with a brief lesson at 10 am followed by play. Most weeks there is an Open section of 5 tables and a 499er section of 6-8 tables.





Open Section:

- Feb. 15 A – Linda King & Dave Jackson (63%)
B – Skip Pack & Ivan Godard
- Feb. 22 Flights A, B & C – Skip Pack & Ivan Godard
- Feb. 29 N/S – Norm Dow & Chuck Wilson
E/W – Carol Nicoletti & Ken Johnson (63.5%)
- Mar. 7 N/S – Mark Moore & Vinny McLoughlin (64%)
E/W – Carol Nicoletti & Barbara Earley
- Mar. 14 N/S – Sue Comporato & Betsy Wagner
E/W – Vinny McLoughlin & Graham Kelly (68.5%)
- Mar. 21 A & B – Joanne McLoughlin & Betsy Wagner (63.7%)
- Mar. 28 A & B – Skip Pack & Jim Craig (70.14%)
C – Don McCown & Seala Fletcher-Kelly
- Apr. 4 A – Jonna Robinson & Dave Jackson (63%)
B – Carol Nicoletti & Patty Stone
C - Chuck Wilson & Norm Dow
- Apr. 11 N/S – Mark Moore & Vinny McLoughlin
E/W – Ken Johnson & Graham Kelly (73%)

499er Section

- Feb. 15 N/S – Lesley Waltner & Dan Brown
E/W – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks
- Feb. 22 N/S – Lesley Waltner & Matt Rode (65.9%)
E/W – Arlene & Steve Greenberg (63.9%)
- Feb. 29 N/S (A & B) – Lesley Waltner & Barbar Miller (62.9%)
E/W (A) – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly (68.7%)
E/W (B) – Ed & Helen Shaw





- Mar. 7 A – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly
 B & C – James & Kathy Krause
- Mar. 14 A – Lesley Waltner & Matt Rode (63.7%)
 B & C – John Montag & Julia Meader
- Mar. 21 N/S – Sue Comporato & Ana Gervacio
 E/W – Dennis Rubida & Betty Russell
- Mar. 28 N/S – George Bitner & Maria Schalk
 E/W – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
- Apr. 4 N/S – Steve & Arelene Greenberg
 E/W – Matt Rode & Lesley Waltner
- Apr. 11 A – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Carolyn Wilson
 B & C – John Montag & Julia Meader

LOCAL ONLINE GAME

Win Stone, who operates the Thursday game at the Gilroy Senior Center, also hosts Bridge Base (BBO) online games, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at 1:25 pm local time. Turnout has risen slightly lately with the addition of players from outside the Unit, and in some cases from all over the world, on an apparently random basis. But generally, it is made up of Unit 524 members and their friends. Usually, 3 to 7 tables of friendly competitors each day. Look for "Stones Game" at 1:25 PST on BBO. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)

The Livermore club will continue to play on Mondays starting at 10am and almost all games are special, provide extra points and are only \$7. Singles are always welcome as we will provide a partner, so please show up 10-15 minutes early in order to meet your partner! We have been having 7-9 tables which is a good sign! Be sure to checkout livermorebridge.com to see the up-to-date schedule and who will be directing and what type of game it will be.

Monday April 8 eclipse day was special as it was the second time in the club's history where we took a break in the middle of the game to go watch it. Rumor has it the next one will be in 2044. I can only hope we are all still playing then!





Marin By Melanie Haddad (508)



Marin Sectional – April 13 & 14 - A Huge Success!

Our Spring Sectional on April 13th and 14th was nothing short of spectacular! We had an amazing turnout with 145 tables, well up on last year. Thank you all for coming! Gene Simpson and Laura Kenney were the top masterpoint winners, with 20.23 each. All the results are [HERE](#). Congratulations all.

A huge thank you to Sectional Chair (and brand-new Life Master) Shirley Ehrlich, who worked tirelessly to organize a great event, including a delicious bag lunch.



Celebrity speaker, Grand Life Master Mitch Dunitz, gave a free lecture before the Saturday afternoon session on Bidding and reviewed hands from the morning session. We are grateful to Mitch for sharing his knowledge and loved having him at our Sectional.



Mitch is dedicated to encouraging younger players to take up the game. He has programs in 18 universities all over the country, including UC Berkeley. The Berkeley students formed a team and played in our Sectional. They competed in the top bracket on Sunday, had a great time playing and meeting and hanging out with Mitch.

Bridge Workshop with Robert Todd

In March, Unit 508 held its first live bridge seminar since the pandemic. Robert Todd presented to a sold-out crowd on Competitive Bidding and Team Game Strategy. Robert concentrated on how to think, evaluate, and strategize at the bridge table. Here's a tip from Robert:



If your RHO opponent opens 1C, and you have a good 5 card D suit but a weak hand overall, consider bidding 2D instead of 1D as it eats space and makes responder's life much more difficult. Over 1D, responder can double to show both majors and still has all his other normal replies. So, in some sense 1D actually helps the opponents.





Robert's tips seemed to energize us, leading to a fantastic turnout for our Unit Team Game on March 24th!

Marin Unit Games – Join the Fun!

The next Unit game is on Sunday, April 28. In addition to the Open game, there will be a 499er game (if enough attendance). We'd love to see you there! Any questions or for help with partners, please contact our Unit Game Director: Peggy Strong, strongpeggy100@gmail.com or 415-299-7511.

Our Unit games are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (unless there is a conflict with a local tournament). The game starts at 1 pm and is held at the Terra Linda Community Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd., San Rafael, CA 94903. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.

For information on all games in our Unit, please visit our website: [Marin Unit 508](#)

Save the Date - Alzheimer's Longest Day Swiss Teams Fundraiser!

It's not just about the game; it's about making a difference. Get ready for a day of camaraderie and fundraising on Wednesday, June 19th, at 1 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin. For more information, contact Henry Kingdon at 415 572-9458, or h_kingdon@yahoo.com.

Amazing Games! Several Unit 508 players competed in the Spring NABC in Louisville. Congratulations to the following Unit 508 stars who placed in national events:

Todd Werby, 14th in The Rockwell Mixed Pairs

Carole Liss, 17th in The Rockwell Mixed Pairs

Peggy Strong, 33rd in The Rockwell Mixed Pairs

Arti Bhargava, 2nd in 0-10K Swiss Teams & 4th in the Women's Open Swiss Teams.





Rank Advancements! Congratulations go to:

Junior Master:

Carol Caldwell-Ewart

Lizzie Kennard

Lynn McLeod

Suzanne Portello

Club Master:

Laurie Kahn

NABC Master:

Chris Egan

Life Master:

Shirley Ehrlich

Bronze Life Master:

Ann Schweichler

Diamond Life Master:

Bill Bailey

Mark Peterson

Welcome New Unit Members! Unit 508 is excited to welcome our newest members. Say hello to George Hester, Astrid Johnson, Steger Johnson, Maria Matan. Welcome all! We look forward to meeting you at our live bridge games.

Share Your Stories! Do you have an amazing game, a memorable hand, or an amusing anecdote to share with the Unit? We want to hear from you! Drop us an email at marinunit508@gmail.com.

Stay Connected! If you're not already receiving our weekly email Blast packed with Unit news, subscribe now! subscribe [HERE](#).

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



Our unit is happy to announce that in these two months Mike and Rose Epting became Club Masters while Sandy Dieker achieved the rank of Junior Master. Congratulations to all three of you!

As it turns out, Mike and Rose won both of Judy Remmers's junior games in February and March, once with a 67.89% game and the second time with an effort of 67.36%. Nice going, you two!

Following them in February were: second, Cathy Peck/Colleen Blackman; third, Dana Dempsey/Linda Ewing, and fourth, Sandy Dieker/Jane Griffith. In March, second place finishers were Sheila Carroll and Meryl Snyder who had a nice game themselves of 64.07%. Third were Judy Kropp/Elaine Kidd & fourth place was a tie between Robin Johnson/Ken White and Sharon Shroeder/Patricia Heckendorf.

Just a reminder, no A players are allowed to play in the Saturday game. Top B players were 1) Barbara Page, 2) Sharon Cole, and 3) Judy Remmers. Topping C were:





Jim Page, Tom Au, and Rose and Mike Epting. Top scores in this game were: 66.88% by Barbara and Jim Page, second 65.87% by Galen Neptune/Cindy Rogers and then a tie for third place at 65.08% between Sharon Cole/Jaime Hamilton and Zhimin Lin/Ben Rushin.

There were only three tables in attendance at the February Unit game, which was paced by Roger Smith/Sheela Wani who tied Cindy Rodgers/Gary Capwell. However, in March, we had a much larger game with 5.5 tables in attendance. Lorraine Bocks/Garrard Marsh were first with 60.42%, while first in C went to Barbara and Jim Page.

Top scores in the two-month period went to Galen Neptune/Ray Adams who turned in a 70.83% game in February, second-highest went to Ralph Jungwirth/Sharon Cole at 69.79% in March, and third was in February by Sheela Wani/Ray Adams with a score of 68.06%.

High scorers in this period were A: First, Ray Adams at 14.91, second, Ralph Jungwirth with 9.51, and third, Sheela Wani at 7.64. In B, Galen Neptune led with 13.85, which was actually second overall, Gary Capwell was second in B at 7.81, while Cindy Rodgers came in third with 7.64, and Garrard Marsh merited an honorable mention at 7.14. In C, Jim Page led, Tom Au was second and Mike and Rose Epting came in third. Honorable mentions went to Jaime Hamilton and Zhimin Lin.

Our top two directors came down with covid in March, meaning I had to do some emergency directing. One director – Libby Longstreth – is still out and we hope to see her again at the tables in another week. Get well soon, Libby! April Fool's Day – our only April holiday or semi-holiday – is long gone, but we still have lots of good bridge coming our way this month.

Monterey By Mary Block (530)

The Monterey Bridge club is planning a Sectional, May 25-26th at our Bridge Center in Monterey. Two pairs sessions on Saturday, starting at 10:00 a.m. Two teams sessions on Sunday starting at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person per session, cash or checks only. It will be limited to 50 pairs or 25 tables and pre-registration is required. The chairperson is Ann Ahmadi. More information is provided on the Unit Website. You may also register on the website.

The monthly Unit Games are continuing to be popular with the membership and a valuable source of income for the Unit. They are generally held on the second Sunday of the month at the Bridge Center. Check the online calendar at the website below.

Monthly team games are now being held, directed by Alan Hedegard. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, April 27.

Pat Canada and Janet Kanstrup, assisted by Ray Mok and Neville Kirby, installed





LED lights to replace the existing fixtures. This is expected to reduce the hefty PG&E bill. We are grateful for having handy members.

Election to the Unit Board of Directors will be held during the month of May, with the results to be announced at the Annual Meeting on the second Sunday in June. Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Pat Heller, Bill Breen, or Sharon Larson. Three positions re available.

We regret having to report the passing of Unit member Jean Scholfield. I remember enjoying playing with her both as a partner and an opponent.

Welcome to new Unit members Gary Fontana and Joyce Hamza.

Ann Ahmadi and Sandra Berris are new Club Masters. Ahmad Ahmadi is now a Regional Master. Mano Singham is now a NABC Master. Congratulations to Ken Gaskins for reaching Life Master status.

As always, be sure to check our Unit website at 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. The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is montereybridgeeducation.org.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Thomas Sheahan (512)



We recently got some great news in that Barbara Lemme who traveled to Washington D.C. for a complicated surgery came through with flying colors and is back home resting up in order to get back to the tables soon. Barb has been a wonderful fixture in our game for 17 years now always ready to help as a former club president and in charge of our "Longest Day" events among many other things. Our club wouldn't be as successful as it is now without her efforts. Besides that, she's a great friend to us and many other players always willing to share her beautiful home. Welcome Home Barb! We're thrilled to have you back!

Club President Rick Davis has handed out some flyers from the FDA to join a study about cognitive issues in seniors. They will test you from the comfort of your home via





your phone and you will be paid \$150 on completion of the study. The bridge club will also be paid \$50. Everyone knows that you have to keep the mind active and bridge is one great way to do it. After going over some of the hands I played recently, I know I'll be taking it. See Rick or Victoria Bonnington for more information.

Congratulations to Howard Bye-Torre on becoming a Sectional Life Master and Bill Harper for attaining Regional Life Master.

Welcome to Kelley Thompson who recently joined our unit. Like a lot of us, Kelley played many years ago and is learning the modern game at a fast pace. He is going to be a good player. Thank you to Sandy Hicks for teaching a class of new players that has 5 tables and to Arlene Holt that teaches new players by going over hands. We greatly appreciate your effort.

The Sonoma Club has decided to join in the "Longest Day" this year.

We had some big games recently. They were:

Sigrid Price and Evelyn Holtz 73%

Dan Harp and Joanne Wegsten 71%

Marsha Horowitz and Tom Sheahan 70%

Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)

Happy Spring and greetings from Unit 503. The past few months have been packed with lots of fun face-to-face bridge events, bringing out the most dedicated on-line players.

There were many 'firsts' to note at our one-session NLM Sectional on February 5. Congrats to overall 1st winners Mary Lou Zoback - Olivier Pieron earning almost 2 silver MPs, and also to new first partners Jennifer Lu - Krishnan Iyer for coming 1st in their section. Jennifer and Krishnan are newer players who were matched at our partnership desk. This was their first tournament, earning their first silver masterpoints. Our next one-session NLM Sectional was held on March 4: congratulations to winners Jane Herman – Cathy Priest in N/S section and Ralph Griffin – Susan Griffin in E/W section. Following a recent change in ACBL rules, we will continue to look at creative ways to attract more NLM players to play in-person – please share your ideas with us!





Our monthly Swiss teams game have proven to be particularly popular. On February 12, we had 16 Swiss teams, with a good mix of expert, advanced, intermediate, and newer players. Congrats to the winning team Irene Hashfield – Philip Freiburger – Linda Rocha – Robert Allen. The newer players team Pearl Renaker – Sólveig Kjartansdottir – Ron Morris – Bob Whitaker had less than 100 MPs amongst them, and yet they placed 4th in B strat and 3rd in C strat beating 8 other teams with more experienced players! A shout-out to their volunteer mentors, Phil Abrahamson and Heather MacGregor, to take some credit as three teammates were mentees of our Unit's Mentor Program (below). The popularity of these Swiss teams games continued solidly with 18 teams at our March 11 game – congrats to the winning team: Lynn Yokel - Jack Verson - Arif Janjua - Clark Millikan; and 17 teams at the April 8 game-- congratulations to the winning team: Lynn Yokel - Daniel Kroll - Clark Millikan - Arif Janjua. Don't forget to sign up for our next one on May 13 – and let us know if you need to be matched with another pair to make a team (I don't think Lynn is available...).

Thank you to Stephanie Youngquist for organizing, and to all of you who attended, our St. Patrick's Day+1 event at the Bridge Center on March 18. Stephanie and her crew did not miss an opportunity to color the club green – every card and bridge board was some shade of green (including many designs that I suspect had been locked away for a while) and prizes and refreshments reflected the theme. Congrats to the winning pairs: Bill Roman - Monica Bacon-Proctor in N/S section and Peggy Chen - Dianne Giancarlo in E/W section.

We had healthy attendance and 4 fun days at our first NLM and Open Sectional for the year from March 21 - 24:

- 78% of participants won silver masterpoints; 806 masterpoints were awarded.
- 292 unique participants played in the tournament from 16 different District 21 units.
- 6 participants played in all 8 tournament sessions!
- Congrats to our Unit's H. Paul Davis for being the top overall masterpoint winner!





Don't miss our next sectional in May for another enjoyable tournament!

Our celebrity lecture webinar with Michael Berkowitz had 85 attendees. His lecture on "How to Find Tricks: Card Combinations for Declarer Play" on March 30 was popular with beginner and intermediate players.

Congrats to our Unit member and ex-Unit Treasurer Susan Zhang on winning the inaugural Women's Open Swiss team event at the Louisville 2024 Spring NABC: [Louisville NABC Daily Bulletin](#).

We also had some youth news published in ACBL's March Bridge Bulletin (page 28): Olivia Schireson needed some silver points and became both a Life Master and Silver Life Master! SiVY's model of hosting **Casual Fridays** game was promoted as a model for clubs across the country.

On April 6 & 7 Unit 503 hosted the Championship Flight and Flight B semi- and finals Grand National Teams (GNT) Trials. Congratulations to the Championship Flight winners Kit Woolsey, Chip Martel, Amber Lin, and Kevin Rosenberg and the team of Xin Ge, Debbie Rosenberg, Guy Gecht, and Michael Rosenberg. The Flight B winners are Rajan Jeyakumar, Terry Kellerman, Marcus Ballinger, and Eugene Sor and the team of Rory Xiao, Brent Xiao, Kayden Ge, Bo Xiao, and Brandon Ge. Good luck at the nationals!

Highlighting some upcoming events for you:

- **Monthly Swiss Team club games** at the Bridge Center: upcoming Mondays, May 13 and June 10 at 10:30AM. [Swiss Team games](#) Sign up: [Unit503 SignUp](#)
- **Silicon Valley Spring Sectional** at the Bridge Center: win silver points during three days on Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28. [Silicon Valley Spring Sectional](#)
- **Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC)** at the Bridge Center: win silver points in any club game during the week of Monday – Sunday, May 6 – 12.
- **Barbara Seagram Celebrity Lecture** – via Zoom - Saturday, May 11 at 9:30 AM: "Opening Leads" [Barbara Seagram webinar](#)
- **Palo Alto Unit Open Sectional & Non Life Master Sectional** at the Bridge Center: win more silver points during four days on Thursday, May 16 – Sunday, May 19. Separate NLM sections.
- **Palo Alto Unit Firecracker Open Sectional & Non Life Master Regional** at the Bridge Center: Open players win silver points while NLMs win gold/red points during five days on Wednesday, July 10 – Sunday, July 14. Mark your calendar!





- **Kathy Harper's Spring classes** at the Bridge Center: [Bridge classes](#)
- **Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY):** Casual Fridays for youth players at the Bridge Center; also check out their Spring/Summer programs: [SiVY website](#)

Newer Players: we have 0-20 masterpoint games at the Bridge Center on Tuesdays at 10:30AM and Wednesday evenings at 6:45PM. Gain experience and improve your game in a relaxed club game environment. Sign up: [Unit503 SignUp](#)

We are grateful for our new **Mentor Program Coordinator**, Sid Chen. Through this program we are able to match aspiring players with more advanced players to encourage our Unit's newer and less experienced players to develop their skills and increase their enjoyment of the game. To apply as a mentee or to volunteer as a mentor please contact Sid: [Unit 503 Mentor Program](#).

Thank you to JoAnne Matthews for being our new **Cards and Flowers** volunteer.

Thank you also to Cynthia Yock for donating several air replacement filters; we appreciate her generosity and her thoughtful consideration of the health and comfort of our members who play at the Bridge Center.

Get more involved with our brilliant bridge community - we need volunteers for: marketing and publicity, coordinating our free lecture series, help organizing a bridge tournament. Please contact either our Volunteer Chair, Gerry MacDonald (geraldinem@aol.com), or our Board President, Liz Koh (lizkoh4bridge@gmail.com).

We are always delighted to see some old friends and new faces at the Bridge Center. **Face-to-face** attendance at the daily Monday to Friday Bridge Center club games is growing: If you have not played F2F bridge in a while, please join us!





Congrats to the following Unit 503 members who achieved a **new ACBL Rank** in February:

Advanced NABC Master: Yakov Feldman.

Life Master: Virginia Dare, Olivia Schireson.

Bronze Life Master: David Leaver, Reddy Raju.

Silver Life Master: Jana Cushman, Olivia Schireson, Michael Xu.

Sapphire Life Master: Susan Zhang

...and to the following Unit 503 members who achieved a **new ACBL Rank** in March:

Junior Master: Jennifer Lu.

Club Master: Lina Reznik.

Sectional Master: Solveig Kjartansdottir.

Bronze Life Master: Dianne Giancarlo, Mary Steele.

Finally, a warm welcome to our **new Unit 503 members:** Paige Biorn, Vicki Delegeane, Krishnan R Iyer, Keith Kitani, Nancy Paxton, Mary R Theis, Robin J Cooke, Ken Gradiska, Gloria Halliday, Mike Halliday, Gwen Havern, Brahm A Levin, Deborah Levin, Helena Liu, Ilya Sherman.

Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)

An Academy is defined as a center of learning in a specialized field led by a group of experts. At the Reno Bridge Academy expert players and assistants bring their passion for the game to new and continuing players through a multi-faceted learning program. See our website at renobridge.com/reno-bridge-academy.

What are the results? In February the table count (302) exceeded 300 for the first time in the club's history (in a month without a special event.) March's count (326) broke that record. In the first three months of 2024 our table count was up 42% over 2023.

The club's leadership and organization, as well as the spacious and comfortable environment of the Mathewson Bridge Center helps bring players in. However, the outreach/ teaching program of the Academy is central to the expansion. Over the last three years, it has brought in many new members. The program also helps retain newer players through ongoing lessons and mentorship.



Within the academy, Jill Wallace, assisted by Brad Stone, has created a structured series of courses that begins with Bridge One, then continues with two courses on bidding and playing (Bridge Two and Three). These are followed up with several specialized courses such as competitive bidding, and bidding and playing NT. The beginning lessons get students practice-playing right away. For advanced beginners, there are workshops on topics such as opening leads, specific conventions, and filling out the convention card. Two of our experts offer weekly drop-in instructional sessions with lessons and

supervised play. On Saturdays, practice play is open to all students and club members. Often, it's "stratified" with boards for three different levels of play, focusing on specific aspects of the game that student have been learning.

The Academy encourages students to play in sanctioned games as soon as they are willing to give it a try. Limited games happen each week and there are regular stratified and limited sectionals. In fact, the next one is coming up soon: April 18-21.

Working with beginning students is gratifying and inspirational. Students are enthusiastic; if they get perplexed during practice play, coaches are on hand. Many club members have stepped up to play this role. It's fun for the members and it helps their own game.

The Academy students have told us they appreciate the cognitive and social benefits of the game. One of the newest students, Ray Gonzalez who works in wealth management, has decided to take time from his very full schedule to learn the game. He had observed that bridge players among his clientele were notably "sharp" mentally. Bridge, he says, "develops new neural pathways and at the same time develops new





friendships." In bridge lessons he has found "joy" as well as "intellectual and social stimulation."

The Reno Bridge Academy could not happen without the steady contributions and enthusiasm of several experts and coaches. However, the Academy owes its inception to the vision and skill of a special individual, Jill Wallace. Jill began teaching online courses during the difficult years of Covid. She continues to expand and perfect the curriculum as it has moved largely to F2F. To sustain the Academy, Jill is mentoring a new generation of teachers. Several of them will go with her to the ABTA this July in Toronto. It's an exciting new trajectory.

San Francisco By Denny Arar (506)



It was party time at Unit 506's largest clubs in March and April. First, the Chinese American held its annual Lunar New Year party at Koi Palace, one of the Bay Area's top Chinese restaurants. Thanks to Gail Gabiati for organizing a fabulous menu enjoyed by some 40 members and friends. More recently, QuickTricks celebrated its new beginner class graduates with cakes and conversation. We're indebted to Easy Bridge instructors Bob Schwab and Anne Derbes for their help in swelling the ranks of new players.

Tom Stillman continues to attract players with Wednesday and Friday afternoon games at the Sunset Club. We invite players from neighboring units to come and enjoy great bridge and Andy Strauss's world-famous tuna fish salad.

This correspondent has been remiss in submitting reports of rank advances lately, so let's play catchup. Most notably from a personal point of view, Christian Goetze (my husband) attained not only life master but ruby life master status (this is what happens when you earn lots of points but need silver points to make LM). Robin Roche, meanwhile, is now a sapphire life master, Louis Lipset claimed gold status, and Ronnie Fuchs and Shazia Makhdumi are silver life masters.

Other new ruby LMs include Steve Kaufman, Gary Mankin and Helen Spalding , and Kirsten Beda made life master. Congratulations to all!

San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



Welcome to members who are new or have transferred to our Unit: Diane Gans and Ann Horstmann.





Congratulations to everyone who recently achieved a new rank achievement:

Junior Master

- Chris Carlton
- Margie Klapper

Club Master

- Ann Horstmann
- Toni Middleton

Regional Master

- Sandra Fricke
- Carol Lashman

NABC Master

- Siuling Ku
- Sue Friedenbach

Life Master

- Lucy Ballard

We kicked off our 2024 Longest Day fundraising with wine auctions at our February and March Unit Games. We are raising funds to support the worthy cause of Alzheimer's research and to support those living with Alzheimer's disease. Last year we were recognized for raising more than \$34,000! We would like to top that if we can, with our Longest Day Unit Game on June 22nd and many other fundraising events leading up to it.

We're excited to be hosting a two-session NLM Sectional at the Villa in San Mateo on Saturday May 4th. You can find the registration link for this and news about our unit activities at our website: www.unit498.com.

Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)



The Santa Cruz Bridge Center held the annual 750 Rising Stars Tournament March 9th and 10th at the Mid-County Senior Center.

Many thanks to the team of Farol Henderson, Lester Loops, Robert Johnson, John Wesoslawski, Jared Boggs, Diana Schilling and Ken Llacera, working tirelessly to bring the games to fruition. Thanks to Lynn Yokel for directing, she was outstanding as always.

There was a better turnout for Saturday morning and afternoon than for our Swiss Teams event on Sunday. Still a great time was had by all.





Rising Stars Tournament Winners Saturday A.M.

Bill Roman and Monica Bacon-Proctor 66.13% 1.26 Silver

Jan Pfiffner, and Kathy Vita 62.63% 0.88 Silver

Leslie Davidson and Linda Downing /Betsy Allen and Michael Kerner 58.31%
0.88 Silver

James Miller and Nancy Pringle 55.48% 0.69 Silver

Nancy Mohan and Alok Mohan 54.30% 0.49 Silver

Ann Ahmadi and Ahmad Ahmadi 52.81% 0.63 Silver

Ginny Arguello and Joanne McLoughlin 52.68% 0.44 Silver

Tournament Winners Saturday P.M. and Combined**

Lester Loops and Robert Johnson 68.75% 2.44 Silver (250.5 Combined)

Linda Downing and Karen Aldridge 60.71% 1.14 Silver 131.14**

Sue Comporato and Betsy Wagner 60.12% 1.38 Silver (226.37 Combined)

James Miller and Nancy Pringle 54.46% 1.84 Silver (237.48 Combined)

Bill Roman and Monica Bacon-Proctor 53.87 % 3.25 Silver (259.19 combined)

Betsy Allen and Michael Kerner 53.27% 1.83 Silver (241.02 Combined)

Lawrence Zito and Dennis Rubida 52.68% 0.82 Silver**

Charles Wilson and Carolyn Wilson 50.89% 0.40 Silver (215.13 Combined)

Ann Ahmadi and Ahmad Ahmadi 48.21% 1.13 Silver (218.2 combined)

Angela Chiang and Edith Chiang 46.43% 0.48 Silver (206.84 Combined)

Jan Pfiffner and Kathy Vita 38.99% 1.26 Silver 219.49 (Combined)

Listed by percentages for the P.M. game

Sunday Swiss Team Winners

Gina Brown, Carol Cowen, Marilyn Calciano, Andrew Calciano 2.17 Silver

Jacci Sterling, Lori Pelc, Robert Johnson, Farol Henderson 1.63 Silver

Lester Loops, Janet Loops, Matthew Nathanson, Leslie Davidson 0.60 Silver





Kathy Vita, Jan Piffner, Karen Aldridge, Linda Downing 0.36 Silver

Betsy Wagner, Sue Compurato, David Gin, Brad Carson 0.36 Silver

Newcomer Games

Played on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, our Newcomer Games are growing. Thanks to our own gourmet chef, Heather MacGregor, the first Wednesday game is accompanied by a fabulous luncheon.

The March 6th game had two students from the beginner group play and take home their first master points by bidding and making a slam!!

April 3rd Newcomers' game had five tables and another gourmet lunch.

Saint Patrick's Day Lunch and Game March 17, 2024

Our newly formed Events Committee held the SCBC first annual a St. Patricks day Corned Beef and Pot Luck lunch and game on the 17th of March. The food was exceptional, Lani Ray and Linda Downing prepared the corned beef and the pot lucks were gobbled up. The game was well attended with Nine Tables of good competition.



Member Accolades

70% Games Jan 27 - April 5

March 6, 2024--Janet Loops and Lester Loops 72.8 %

March 11, 2024--Eric Stozberg and Mark Riley 71.9%

April 5, 2024--John Hullman and Charles Pender 72.68%





Member Accomplishments

Mary Kelly - New Junior Master, 5+ points

Matthew Nathanson -New Club Master, 20+ points

Anthony Nelson - New Club Master, 20+ points

Farol Henderson - New NABC Master, 300+ points

John Wesolowski - New Bronze Life Master, 750+ points

Ken Llacera - New Diamond Life Master, **5000+ points**

Our Sunday Brunches held once a month, continue to be a big draw for food and fun. \$20.00 for the brunch and the game. Members must sign up for the brunch, in advance, but don't have to stay and play....OR some may just want to play \$10.00

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)



One hundred and sixty people (40 tables) played bridge Saturday morning, March 2, on the first day of our very successful Unit 509 Spring Sectional. We had 36 tables in the afternoon and 33 on Sunday for Teams Day.

Participation was high despite the foul weather. Through the generosity and cooking skills of our members, we kept people fed and happy with a full table of goodies, all day long.



Directors Lynn Yokel and Evelyn Holtz kept things running smoothly and on-time. Our caddies did a fine job, and your generous tips rewarded them for their work. They set-up quickly on Saturday morning and got everything cleaned up and put away Sunday evening. And they made their way efficiently through the maze of players to "caddy" boards to their proper destinations.





Overall winners for the weekend were John Miller and Lynn Shannon of Campbell with 27.19 masterpoints.

On Saturday, in Open Pairs, Lynn Blumenthal shared first place for 17.19 silver with Crispin Barrere. Brian Sullivan and Jonathan Cohen were first in B, and Veronica Berlin and Michael Callahan were first in C. In the Saturday 499er morning section, 1st in D, E, and F were Robert Bruce and Linda Yankee winning 2.64 silver. In the afternoon, Gloria Hersch and Fred Wiele won 1st in D and E for 2.29 silver followed by Jane Drever and Victoria Bonnington 1st in F for 1.72 silver.

On Sunday, Sara Rothmuller, Manfred Michlmayr, Lynn Shannon, and John Miller were victorious, winning 14.30 silver. AX winners Henry Kingdon, Andrea Ventris, Peggy Strong, and Paul Kushner won 6.93 silver. In the B/C/D Swiss, 1st in B were Dana Shelley, Philip Abrahamson, Stephanie Singer, and Carol Kemper winning 6.6 silver; 1st in C were Neill Ray, Lori Kiefer, Carol Morse, and Andy Andrews winning 3.78 silver; and 1st in D, Judy Duport, Robert Keays, Howard Neckel, and Laurie Vree winning 2.61 silver.



We're getting ready for our Fall Sectional, September 14 and 15, and look forward to seeing you then.

I mentioned in February how successful our unit championships have been recently. Almost every month we have a lesson presented by one of our unit 509 experts followed by a lunch almost always provided by Jackie Ortiz and then a unit championship. Our last 2 unit games had 13 1/2 and 16 tables, and many of those players came from neighboring units.

Our February 17 unit game featured Tony Jackson's class titled Control Bidding for Slam Exploration. Over 50 bridge players attended as Tony explained the difference between Cue Bids, Control Bids, and bids showing a stopper. He demonstrated the difference between control bids, which show exactly where the controls are, and Blackwood, which shows how many controls, but not their location.



Our wonderful lunch chef, Jackie Ortiz, handled the overflow crowd with aplomb.





Even though the crowd was much larger than she had planned for, Jackie made sure everyone got enough to eat. Lunch was delicious as always.

We had 16 tables for the unit game. First N/S and Overall A & B were Carol Morse and Andy Andrews winning 3.79 masterpoints. First N/S and Overall in C were Harley Conner and Kim Fusch. Sitting E/W, 1st in A were Mark Hersko and Larry Spanier, 1st in B were Carol Kemper and Stephanie Singer, and 1st in C were Robert Goetzinger and Lawson James.



We were fortunate to have Tony Jackson as our speaker again for our March 30 class, Signaling on Defense. A few responses: "Tony's class had pointers for players of all skills. He was able to include everyone", "I thought it was interesting that Tony suggests that players do not use either Lavinthal or odd/even discard.", and "He suggested we learn both standard and upside down so that we can more easily recognize what the opposition is saying." Unit 509 is very fortunate to have Tony as a member who is such a great teacher and also so generous with his time and knowledge.



After the lesson we were treated to a completely delicious and plentiful luncheon of chicken pasta salad, zucchini fritters, green salad and bread pudding, all made by Jackie Ortiz.



Thirteen and a half tables played in the Unit Game. The big winners were Mark Hersko and Larry Spanier, 1st N/S, with 67.80%, winning 3.35 masterpoints. Sitting E/W, 2nd overall were Jerry Besses and Joanne Wegsten with 62.65%. Sitting E/W, Laurie Vree and Jeremy Brott were 1st in B and C. Sitting N/S, Carol Morse and Andy Andrews were first in B, and Charlene Stone and Jean O'Donnell were first in C.


Our next unit game will be on Saturday, May 18, at the Petaluma Community Center. At 11:30 a.m. Evelyn Holtz will tell you all there is to know about Lebensohl Over NT Interference, followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. and by Unit Stratified Pairs at 1:00 p.m.





We had two 70+% club games since our last report, both at Finley 509. On March 13, Frederick Morris and John Oswalt were 1st with 70.24%; and on April 3, Patty Harberson and Helene Gay scored a big 72.49%.

Online, Jeremy Brott and Kim Fusch had a whopping 74.06%, 1st out of 186, on March 8 in the Golden Lights Gold Rush game, earning 11.30 Gold! Wow! On March 21, Dave Pankratz and Bob Klein scored 72.02% for 1st out of 38 tables. On March 22, Panette Talia and her partner were 1st out of 78 tables, scoring 71.83%. Mark Hersko had 4 big BBO games: 70.26% with Debbie Tesler on February 25, 4th out of 232 Pairs; 70.6%, coming in 2nd out of 138 pairs with Debbie Tesler on March 10; 71.43%, 2nd out of 138 pairs again with Debbie Tesler on March 17; and 72.25% with Jackie Ortiz, 1st out of 164 pairs, on March 23.

Congratulations to our players who advanced in rank. Our newest Junior Masters are Michele Weitzenberg and Fred J. Wiele; Club Master, Sandy Kriegsman; Regional Master, Robert Keays; NABC Master, Laurie Vree; Silver Life Master, Conrad Larkin; and Diamond Life Master , Lynn Blumenthal.

Sadly, we were notified that one of our players, Susan Snow, passed away in January. May she rest in peace.

Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



I wrote my last Unit 507 column five weeks ago. Since then we've held two Unit Board meetings.

We have a spring sectional coming up soon on Friday April 26 through Sunday April 28 at the Palo Alto Bridge Center. Here is a link to our flyer with the schedule of events. There are pair games the first two days and team games on the last day.

In June, the two-year terms will elapse for six of our 12 Unit Board Directors, namely Stu Goodgold, Lynn Bartz, Doug Hong, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, and Betsy Wagner. Four of the six are interested in continuing to serve. Stu, after 26 years on the Unit Board as well as serving at all levels of the ACBL, is ready for a break. Our President, Mich Ravera, will be asking Doug about continuing. If you are interested in serving on the Board or would like to nominate someone, let me or Mich know. We will hold a unit election in June if there are more people interested in serving than the six positions to be filled. It has been some time since an election was required.

Our unit members have been active in tournaments since my last column. The Nationals in Louisville attracted a number of unit members. In national pair events, Eri Zhou was first in the Lehbar Imp Pairs while Xin Ge was seventh. Rich Reitman was fourth in the Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs. Jung Hu was 15th in the Women's Pairs. In the North American Pairs, Gang Zhao was third in flight B, and Milind Girkar & Shailesh





Sampat were third in flight C. Cadir Lee had a section top in the Silodor Open Pairs.

In regional events at the nationals, Rich Reitman had a section top in the International Fund Pairs and Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean's team was first in the X flight of a Top Flight Swiss.

In other regionals, Tony Barre's team won a knockout in the Palmetto regional. Lynn Shannon & John Miller had a section top in a pairs game in the Oregon Trail regional, Stacie's Bowman's team was first in its bracket in the San Diego Regional. In the online Hollywood Magic regional, John Stremel had two section tops in mid-flight pairs events, and Li Zhang & Jian Fang had a section top in Gold Rush pairs.

In sectionals, Lynn Shannon & John Miller had pairs section tops in Sacramento, Santa/Rosa Petaluma, and Mountain View. In Santa Rosa/Petaluma, their Swiss team placed first. In Chico, they took first in open pairs.

Others also did well. Michael Callahan had a stratification top in Santa Rosa/Petaluma. In a Capitola under-750 sectional, Bill Roman & Monica Bacon-Proctor were first in a pairs game, and Kathy Vita & Jan Pfiffner had a section top.

There was a lot of action at the four-day Mountain View sectional. Winning two-session open pairs events were Ken Rosenfeld, Sriram Ganesan, and Sadik Arf & Luen-Jyh Luo. A Swiss team with Norman Marks & John Hodges was first in the A/X flights. An under-3,000 team with Joel Koransky & Ken Rosenfeld was first in their bracket.

Earning section tops in open pairs events (in addition to those already mentioned), were John Stremel, Stu Goodgold & Ken Rosenfeld, Luen-Jyh-Luo & Frank Xie, Matthew Haag, Andrew Sinclair, and Laura Walters. Section tops in NLM pairs went to Kathy Ormseth (twice) and Betsy Wagner & Jan Pfiffner.

And Sriram Ganesan was on the first place GNT team in District 19.

Rollo Parsons deserves congratulations for becoming a new Junior Master.

The Unit Board is planning its annual membership meeting, meal, and club championship for July 27. More details will be available on our website, sjbridge.org.

At our last meeting, the Unit Board authorized me to file articles of incorporation for Unit 507 in California. Despite having Bylaws dating back to 1960, it appears as though this step hasn't been taken before though we've been filing federal and state tax forms for years.





Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



On the day of the solar eclipse several people brought goodies to the Stockton game, including a plate of oreos arranged to show the phases of the eclipse that we Californians were missing and another plate depicting the sun in full eclipse using yellow pastries as the sun's corona while the center was a disc of brownies. Sometimes it is the little things that make bridge extra fun.

Game size has picked up a little at the Stockton and Oak Park Bridge Clubs. We are frequently getting 6-8 tables at the Stockton Club and 7-9 at Oak Park. The dividers at the latter venue have been moved to allow the bridge players more of the space that is shared with those only participating in the lunch program, significantly decreasing the noise. That venue also has excellent air conditioning if anyone is worried about the upcoming summer. In other words, always bring an extra layer or two if you "run cold" like me.

Let's celebrate our members' rank advancements since the last newsletter: Jeanie Douglas, Club Master, Sharon Ritchie, Regional Master, Bobby Ilse, NABC Master, and Byron Barclay, Ruby Life Master. Although not a member of 510, Sue Vogtlin is a regular player at the two Stockton clubs and just reached Gold Life Master in early April. Congratulations to all!

The April QUIP Report is a statistical analysis the ACBL sends quarterly to Units so they can get some sense of their membership compared to other units in the district. The Stockton Unit's latest report shows the following numbers and trends for 2023:

1. **Membership.** We have 116 current paid members which is a 5.45% increase on the previous year and reverses similar size losses for the two previous years. It places us 5th in the district (D21) out of 21 units and 22nd in the ACBL out of 289 units. Pretty good scores and certainly helped by Mary Wells' efforts to teach and recruit new members for the Mountain clubs.
2. **New Member Gains.** After gaining only 1 new member in 2021, and 3 in 2022, last year we gained 8. Our newest members are Betty Dailey from Arnold, and Byron Barclay who transferred in from the Diablo Valley Unit.
3. **Member losses.** Much improved – only 1 member dropped their membership last year compared with 15 in the two years previously. This put us 2nd in the district and 17/289 in the ACBL. Please encourage your friends to renew as the Bridge bulletin alone is worth paying the membership fee.
4. **Member retention.** We retained 61% of the new members, scoring 2nd in the district and 32nd in ACBL.





5. **Average member age:** 76. Wow. This is a bit higher than most Units but we do have quite a number of active players in their 90's (and 100's)
6. **Average years of ACBL membership:** 23.

The new players want to win masterpoints, of course, so everyone is encouraged to support the Sacramento Regional for red and gold points and Northern California Sectionals for silver points. Hotel rooms are still available at the \$112 rate for the Sacramento Regional running May 27-June 2. For the newer players, this tournament has games for people with under 499 points and offers the chance to win red points, of which you need 5 to reach the level of Regional Master (100 points).

The Stockton Club will participate in STaC week games on May 6, 9, and 10 Thursday but not on Mothers' Day. ACBL recently significantly raised the table fees for these special games so the Club must charge \$10 per game instead of the usual \$8 to offset the additional fees. STaC games are the only way to earn Silver points without traveling to a Club or District that is holding a Sectional event.

Sadly, two regulars in the Stockton Intermediate game passed away recently: Ron Allison and Marilyn Segarini.

Korey Baumbach will be back to his regular Director schedule this month, including at Oak Park April 16 and running the Unit Game at the Stockton club on Sunday, April 21. The Sunday game is a pot luck lunch at 12, including wine and free bottles and cans from the fridge. Last time I checked there was ice cream for the pot luck as well!

For you players who enjoy online games don't forget to check out the Virtual Club games offered by SE Carolina. Each time you play the Unit receives a small portion of the entry fee. Contact Debbie DeZarn to be walked through how to find the games if you want to give it a try.