

DIAMOND

IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 1, Number 1 May 2018

District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, ACBL District 21
Tournament Manager

In Modesto, it was a bit like Déjà vu - due to cancellations and early departures, we dipped below our contracted room block, despite the fact it was full and people couldn't get a room prior to the start of the tournament.



We sent out an SOS, and our people came and booked enough rooms (although not at the bridge rate, some had to pay as much as \$200 per night) to save us! You are all my heroes! Our final table count was a decent 942. Everyone there really enjoyed the tournament; it's a wonderful venue for bridge.

On to Sacramento! I'd like to remind people that I AM keeping a waiting list for the Doubletree, so if you're going to cancel, it would be great if you would check to see if I need your room before you cancel with the hotel.

There is also a wonderful overflow hotel in Sacramento, the Marriott Townplace Inn and Suites. The rate is \$119, it's very nearby, the rooms have kitchens, living rooms, and breakfast is included. Their phone number is (916) 920-5400.

D21 Representatives Chosen for Atlanta GNT Finals

The following teams will represent District 21 at the finals of the Grand National Teams at the Summer NABC in Atlanta.

Open Flight: Kit Woolsey, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Joanna Stansby, Adam Kaplan, Kevin Rosenberg.

Flight A: Greg Vance, Drew Hoskins, Erwin Linzner, Mykaell McCarthy.

Flight B: Yu Chang, Bin Liang, Jiang Chen, Jun Shi, Wanwan Ren, Renjun Guo.

Flight C: Ying Liu, Jianxin Liu, Douglas R Schmickrath, Roy Tsai, David G Wong, Jung Hu.

MY FIRST 120 DAYS

By Jackie Zayac, District 21 Director

On January 1, 2018, I started my three-year term as the new District 21 Director. I was also automatically given one of the two seats representing District 21 on the Western Conference Board. The other seat, which is up for election by the District 21 Board of Directors every three years, has been held for many years by Marion Robertson, who has expertly represented District 21.

The Western Conference Board was in a very precarious position on January 1, 2018. District 17 had

issued a letter of intent to withdraw from the Western Conference Board around April, 2018. District 22 had also issued a letter of intent to withdraw around June, 2018. The main issue was the inability to continue to pay for the monthly Western Conference Forum newspaper. While some money to pay for it came from Western Conference STaC profits,



Continued on Page 2

each District also paid sanction fees to support the cost of the monthly newspaper. The District 17 Director, Bonnie Bagley and our District 21 Western Conference Representative, Marion Robertson, were the only two long time members of the Board. Marion Robertson was serving as the Western Conference President in an effort to keep the Board together, but she had exceeded her term limits to serve in this position. David Lodge, District 22 Director and I were both newly elected to office and onto the Western Conference Board. The District 17 Representative, John Grossman and District 22 Representative, Ron Lien, had each served on the Board for a few months.

The first piece of business was to find out if there was any chance District 17 and/or District 22 would consider rescinding their letters of intent to withdraw from the Western Conference. If so, we needed to elect a new Western Conference President to get back in compliance with our bylaws. On January 6, 2018, we elected Ron Lien, District 22 Representative, as our new President.

On February 18, 2018, the Western Conference Board met via a video call to discuss the future of the Western Conference. District 17 had already made arrangements to go their separate way with an online newsletter beginning on April 1, 2018. Due to the profitability of our Western Conference STaC Weeks, District 17 was very interested in rescinding their letter of intent if the Western Conference would be in charge of STaC Weeks only.

District 21 and District 22 both wanted to move to an online newsletter, but we had to decide if we would do so jointly or

individually. Both Districts agreed that we would issue our last joint issue of the Western Conference Forum newspaper on April 1, 2018.

By the end of our video chat, the decision had been made for the Western Conference Board to continue to be in charge of the Western Conference STaC Weeks, but no longer be responsible for a newspaper or newsletter for any of the three districts.

Effective May 1, 2018, the District 21 Board of Directors will be responsible for the new online newsletter. At this point, Tom Pajak, District 21 President, was brought into the process to be part of the decision-making process as we moved forward.

Marion Robertson and I began researching alternatives for the future online newsletter. Our first success was discovering that Rich Luttrell, our current District 21 editor for the Western Conference Forum, was willing to continue to be the editor for our online newsletter.

With his years of experience and familiarity with all the people involved in contributing to the Forum, we had taken care of a major transition hurdle. All of the advertisers and article contributors would see no change in how their business was conducted.

The next step was to take bids and look at the work of online publishers. I had been fortunate to be sent to Horn Lake, Mississippi in mid-January to meet the ACBL staff. Jay Whipple, ACBL President, came to meet with David Lodge and myself as the only two new ACBL District Directors. During our meetings, David and I discussed the challenges we would shortly be facing to identify publishers who may want to submit a bid to

publish our new online newsletters. Jay Whipple told us about Scott Tumperi, who publishes the District 9 (Florida) online and booklet newsletter. Scott sent us a sample of his work product and a bid and he was selected to be our new publisher. I hope you are as impressed with his publishing skills as I am!

I hope you are all aware of the creative genius of the District 21 Board. She is none other than our District 21 Secretary, Sandi Davis. Sandi came up with the name for our new online newsletter, Diamond in the Ruff. In addition, we needed a new name for our former "Unitscopes" section of the newsletter. Sandi came to the rescue again with Heart of the District. Thank you, Sandi!

The next Western Conference STaC Week will be held May 7 – 13, 2018. I encourage you all to play STaC games and try to bump those silver point wins into the overall standings. Your Western Conference Board will be meeting via video again between May and July to discuss the future of the STaC Weeks.

The STaC Weeks will continue and the Western Conference Board is reorganized. Both District 17 and District 22 have rescinded their letters of intent to withdraw from the Western Conference!

I hope you all enjoy reading the inaugural edition of Diamond in the Ruff. If you have any suggestions for additions or changes to this newsletter or just an opinion about the new online newsletter, we would love to hear from you. If you would be interested in submitting periodic bridge learnings (novice, intermediate and expert levels) for our District 21 members, your articles will be greatly appreciated.

Modesto Spring Fling Regional



Winners of Tuesday Choice Pairs: Mark Itabashi of Murrieta; July Ratley of Redding



Winners of Tue-Wed Bracketed KO: Joshua Donn of Las Vegas; William Bailey & Arti Bhargava of Mill Valley; (not pictured: Aaron Jones of San Francisco)



Winners of Wednesday Choice Pairs: Michael Mikyska of Los Angeles; Mitch Dunitz of Sherman Oaks



Winners of Thursday Choice Pairs: Iftikhar Baqai of Irvine; Michael Mikyska of Los Angeles



Winners of Thu-Fri Bracketed KO-2: Rita Rubinfeld of Portola Valley; Andy Scott of San Jose; Deborah Machlin of Los Altos; Robert Allen of San Jose



Winners of Friday Choice Pairs: Chris Compton of Dallas TX; Dick Jones of Sacramento



Winners of the Saturday Bracketed KO 1: Bjorgvin Kristinsson of Columbia Heights MN, Joshua Donn of Las Vegas; Arti Bhargava & William Bailey of Mill Valley.



Winners of Sunday Fast Open Pairs: John Lyddon & Susan Furchtenicht of Santa Maria



Winners of Saturday Open Pairs: Jim O'Neil of Cupertino and Jean Barry of Livermore

Upcoming Tournaments

- May 4–6, 2018**
Sacramento Spring Sectional
 Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA
- May 5, 2018**
Palo Alto Non-Life Master Sectional
 Bridge Center, Mountain View CA
- May 12–13, 2018**
San Mateo Intermediate/Newcomer Spring Sectional
 Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame CA
- May 18–20, 2018**
Monterey Cypress Sectional
 Bridge Center of Monterey, Marina CA
- Jun 9–10, 2018**
San Francisco Sectional
 Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA
- Jun 23–24, 2018**
East Bay Two-Day Summer Sectional
 Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA
- Jun 27–Jul 1, 2018**
Firecracker Super Sectional
 Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA
- Jul 7–8, 2018**
Wine Country Sectional
 Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA
- Jul 13–15, 2018**
Castro Valley Sectional
 Transfiguration Church Hall, Castro Valley CA
- Aug 11–12, 2018**
San Mateo County Summer Sectional
 Cañada College Cafeteria, Redwood City CA

- Aug 11–12, 2018**
Fresno Non Life Master Sectional
 Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA
- Aug 15–18, 2018**
Sid & Lillian Davidson Memorial Sectional
 Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV
- Sep 7–9, 2018**
Sacramento Fall Sectional
 La Sierra Community Center, Carmichael CA
- Sep 15–16, 2018**
Stockton Sectional
 Ben Holt Middle School, Stockton CA
- Sep 15–16, 2018**
Earthquake Sectional
 Gilroy Senior Center, Gilroy CA
- Sep 29–30, 2018**
Santa Rosa Fall Sectional
 Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA
- Oct 4–7, 2018**
Carson-Tahoe Fall Sectional
 Plaza Conference Center, Carson City NV
- Oct 6–7, 2018**
Almond Valley Sectional
 Homewood Village Clubhouse, Modesto CA
- Oct 13–14, 2018**
SM Intermediate/Newcomer Fall Sectional
 Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame CA
- Oct 13–14, 2018**
Santa Cruz Surf's Up Sectional
 Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA
- Oct 26–28, 2018**
Unit 507 Fall Sectional
 West Valley College, Saratoga CA

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- May 28–Jun 3, 2018**
California Capital Regional
 DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento CA
- Aug 28–Sep 3, 2018**
All Western Regional
 Hyatt Regency
 Santa Clara CA
- Oct 15–21, 2018**
Reno/Sparks Regional
 The Nugget
 Sparks NV

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

Berkeley/El Cerrito/ Richmond

By The Beer Dude

Here we go digitized; will be interesting to see the differences, now that D21 is on its own; the Western Conference is history. I (& I'm sure many of my fellow columnists/Unit reps on the D21 Board) thank Marion Robertson for her long service as D21's rep to that Conference. The STaCs already set up for 2018 won't go away; next year, we're likely to see a different arrangement. I'll pass on whatever I hear about them @ the Next 2 D21 meetings (early June in Sacto; Labor Day wkend in Santa Clara).

Just the 3/28 Wed unit game to report (6 tables): Eric & Dick dominated w/67.08%; 2 60% games 2nd & 3rd: Gerda Janos-Marcia Mattoon (62.08 & 1B); Joanne Cobeen-Trudie Sinclair (60.83). Newbies Roger Edelson-George Proper were 4A/2B, getting the overall A MP's (which are more than 2B – you always get the highest possible in stratified games). May games are Fri 5th & BBQ Swiss Sat 20th. BBQ Swiss is limited to 12 teams (all Arlington CH can hold comfortably); U497 member captains/outsideers who've been consistent attendees over the years have 1st crack @ the required reservations (call/e-mail me to get in). Unit members dine free btwn sessions; others pay \$7. Table fees are \$80/team – 6 rounds of 8 boards, game time is 11AM.

In-Out/Rank mover-uppers: Welcome new member Maxime Pouvreau (cool name to pronounce properly, as it glides so smoothly off the tongue – vive la France!). On the rank advancement front, Mingyang

Zhou & Xinchun Zhu (the 2 members we welcomed last month) already have their 1st 5+ (Jr Master); add Thomas Scruggs to the Club Master (20+) ranks. Finally, Dick Walker's our newest "Ruby Begonia", having gone over 1500 (the 30 he & Eric got for winning the ACBL-wide charity game late Feb did the trick).

At da club, Dick was MP champ; Herb & Janice Tamm topped the NLM's. StaC games Wed/Fri 9th/11th – come chase the silver points you may need for LM w/o paying 2-digit table fees to do so (like you do @ Sectionals) – we charge \$7, just \$1 above our normal table fee. The extra \$1/person covers \$4/table of the \$6.50/table charge we pay; we subsidize the rest (the Unit owns the club). Club championship game is Wed 16th.

Kudos to ACBL again – this time for reading my mind & requiring StaC games to be matchpointed across the field (see Stu Goodgold's column in Apr issue for the details). Eric's fond of saying "Fair is fair" about many things – a sentiment with which I agree 100%, especially when it comes to bridge. When I run games, I adjust the lower strat limits to reflect the field playing that session – I don't add a C strat unless I have 9+ tables/run a 1-winner movement w/9+pairs. With just 5 full tables, no strats.

Give me your feedback (positive & negative; e-mail preferred) on this new newsletter. I'll pass your likes/dislikes onto the editor. As I said last month, it's a work in progress – just like a new yacht/Navy ship on a "shakedown" cruise – the mission is to find glitches & fix them. Adieu – don't forget upcoming Sacto Regional, which runs May 29-June 3. I'll be up there for the D21 meeting;

may be able to play a session or 2, depending on stuff I won't have full info about until late May.

Tweak beerman1949@gmail.com to brag/gripe/suggest; Unit info (including early look at this column) & game results available 24/7 @ www.berunit497.org

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni



I have often talked about food consumption in the past, and I recently discovered a super article written by

Bob Levey, who's a retired columnist for the Washington Post, and a Gold Life Master. He noted, "What you eat can affect your play." It's posted in an issue of the Bridge Bulletin, under "Food for thought." I'm such a foodie, and encouraged by his wisdom. Eating is a big deal!

Every major event in our lives usually has a food focus. Marriages, funerals, birthdays, business meetings, parties, etc. We just can't live without it. However, as Mr. Levey said "Eat well, stay well."

We really chowed down as we celebrated our Pro-Am game on March 31st. So many folks generously shared homemade tortes, lox, bagels, fresh fruits, and desserts. I did notice that many skipped the sweets, and went for fruits, cheese, and other healthy choices. This brain game has lots of benefits. It was a full house, and Mark Humphrey is the man. You all know his name by now. He's a humble guy. He managed to "Put on the Ritz", paired up Life Masters to play with a Non-Life Master. It was a real fit. Us non-lifers

had a grand opportunity to learn from the best. It was such a happy gathering. This event was held in honor of Ken White. He passed away nearly a decade ago, but his memory and dedication to this game carries on. His joyful spirit was shared with 82 people who participated in this wonderful Pro-Am game. Thanks Mark.

Kindness exuberated from every Life Master, patience decorated every table, and generosity was dished-out by the handfuls. I had Linda Friedman as my Pro. It was my pleasure Linda.

Top winners for N/S went to Linda Bandler and Kerek Southern. Awesome! Valerie Petersen and Dianne Levin were no. 1 for E/W. Great game girls. All results can be

found at Diablovalleybridge.com Click on March 31, Saturday.

Think of bridge as mental gymnastics. It has allured milt-millionaires like Warren Buffett, and Bill Gates. Alzheimer's Association promotes people over 50 to engage their brain with card games. They offer social engagement, and reignites your memory. Now, what I was writing?

We also had our spring sectional. I'll have more info in the next issue.

Please mark your calendars for a special May Day with Larry Cohen. Larry has lots of bragging rights. Like -World Wide Lecturer for all levels of Bridge. Twenty-Five time National Champion. and among the top 10 living, most influential ACBL Bridge players. Yikes.

The date is May 16, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There's contact info for signing up at our website Diablovalleybridge.com However, if you confirm your reservations prior to May 1, the fee is \$85.00. After that, it's \$95.00. The play-day is being held at the Wesley Center, SRV United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Contact JackieZayac@gmail.com

Ciao Bella, Lisa

East Bay

By Tom Pajak

Whew! Tax season has ended, so I hope everyone has received some blessings in cash from Uncle Sam and (in California) Uncle Jerry. I've 'retired' from the tax business a few years ago, but still assist plenty of my favorite clients from the bridge clubs

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East Bay 2-Day Summer Sectional

OAKLAND MASONIC CENTER
3903 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Oakland 94611

Saturday June 23

at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (single sessions)

Strati-flighted Pairs A/X 3000+

Strats B/C/D 1000-1500/500-1000/0-500

Stratified 299er Pairs 0-75/75-150/150-300 (Attendance Permitting)

Sunday June 24

at 10:00 a.m. and approx. 2:30 p.m.

"BARBARA HARMON Bracketed Swiss" -- 20VP scale

The top bracket will consist of the highest ranked teams plus any teams that opt to be in the top bracket.

Teams must play both sessions.

All brackets except the bottom will play 7 rounds, 7 boards;
Bottom bracket plays 7 rounds, 6 boards.

Lunch provided each day for \$5

Table fees \$12.00 per Session
(unpaid ACBL members - \$16.00)

Mid-chart allowed in Flight A/X and top bracket of Swiss Teams.

DIRECTIONS:

Located on Broadway between 38th and 40th streets, 1½ blocks east of MacArthur Blvd. Entrance is under the blue awning. Located seven blocks from MacArthur BART.

Partnerships / Information: call Shirley Rodenborn (510) 459-6286



every spring. Maybe tax refunds can equate to masterpoint earnings? Let's see who earned some well-deserved refunds:

In the most recent unit game, on March 18 we saw our illustrious Unit President, Neal Mazaroff, and his infamous partner Stuart Schneck, grabbing 1st overall N/S against the formidable E/W pair of Pat Leary & Bill Rudman, with East Bay resident comedian Ching Chao and astrological aficionado partner Joye Sidoti falling in 2nd E/W with a close margin. For the April Fool's (April 1) game we had N/S winners Barak Engel & Lynn Yokel (tournament director extraordinaire) finishing 1st N/S against District 21 webmaster Grant Robinson & partner Teri Boyd taking E/W. Following those were our brilliant instructor Ravi Bhalla with money-man David Snyder grabbing 2nd N/S followed by hockey maven Ed Seputis w/ Denis Racine in 2nd place E/W. Have I used enough descriptive adjectives to suit all of you?

Remember that STaC week starts May 7 and runs through May 13. This is your chance to grab those elusive silver points at clubs. Any time you scratch, you'll get silver, and if you finish in the great western overall awards, you'll reap many more silver nuggets. Plan to grab your loyal partner and play at all the club events during that week for fun, silver, and interesting hands every session. The East Bay Community Bridge Center will have STaC games going Monday through Saturday (May 7-12) so plan to attend them all, especially if you're lacking those coveted silver goodies! You know the venue is friendly, affordable, accommodating, with easy curbside parking and the most delicious snacks around.

Let's welcome new Unit 502 member Blair Hull as well as those

transferring into our unit: Bettina Brill, Tom Griswold, and Barbara Parsons (from San Fernando). We also bid a fond farewell out of Unit 502 to Cass Hawes who's moving to San Luis Obispo; we all remember Cass as a superb player with everything good to say about absolutely everyone. Happy travels to you, Cass, and keep impressing those down south with your elegance and courtesy.

Let's congratulate Margaret Garms as our newest Junior Master along with Helene Byrne (Club Master), Gail Oraftik (Sectional Master), and Lois Horwitz (Bronze Life Master). We all know these rank advancements are a crawl-by-crawl effort and all those fractional points DO add up, so just keep playing and doing well, everyone! You'll eventually see your name in this column once you overcome the next threshold.

In closing, it's time to wish a quick and healthy recovery to Carin Caroe in her health difficulties. Let's also hope that Seiko Hazanow finds a rapid recovery from her recent fall so she can return to the bridge tables quickly.

We also offer our condolences to the family of Esther Larsen, wife of the late "Chili" Larsen, mother of Sherry Larsen-Beville. Esther graced our tables for many years with her lovely sweet spirit. This month, we also lost Pauline Mar, mother of Sidney Mar, who was a regular player at many games for years past as well as enjoying her fame as an accomplished ballroom dancer. Sadly, two more deaths were just announced: Daisy Roman and Thera Hettick, both regular players at Doug Handler's Monday night Piedmont game who have passed away. We remember all of these lovely women with fondness and offer their families our sincere sympathy for their loss.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

Hello everyone, we have a lot to cover, so here we go.

There was one special Sunday game in March; 4 ½ tables participated in an ACBL Charity game on 3/25. The winning pair was Richard Meffley & Margaret Mahaffey.

We have a few events in the next two months.

May's activities include the traditional Peggy Ochs Memorial game on Sunday the 6th. This is the day in which we honor the players from Unit 522 that have died since our last Memorial game. Those who will be remembered this May are Paula Baraldi, Betty Coates, Maxine Leonard, Marlene McCready, Steve Sharp, Marian Steinmetz, Vi Steitz, Ron Viera, and Martha Waller. There is a potluck lunch at noon and a Unit Championship game at 1 pm.

Mun Takeda has offered to give a series of four lessons on 2 Over 1 on Tuesday evenings in May (8, 15, 22, & 29). She is generously donating her teaching fees to the clubhouse, so not only will members learn a valuable bidding system, but it will also serve as a fund raiser for the club. The fact that we already had 25 people signed up before the end of March, shows that this lesson series is highly anticipated; long overdue for some of us.

The June event will be the 6th Annual Longest Day Bridge Marathon (a fund raiser for the American Alzheimers Association). ACBL has decided that this year we can use any day of the week of the Summer Solstice. The Board of Directors chose to have our marathon on Friday, June 22. The last time we had a Friday marathon, we crammed 5 games in on one day; starting with a 6 am Individual

Game. The schedule is still in the works, but we are considering the full 5 game schedule once again. So, get ready to play bridge from Sunrise to Sunset (and a bit beyond).

We had many 70% games in March. In Oakhurst, Wally Wallace & Paul Mertens, 70.6%; Wally Wallace & Dana Brown, 70.83%; Ken Doig & Claire Molnar, 70.42%; In Madera, Mary & Nick Gullo, 71.88%; In Fresno, Ray April & Gerry Jones, 70.97%; Gary Nelson, 72.92% in an Individual game; lastly, we have many 70% and a couple 80% games in the two Fresno 99ers games: Margot Cegielski & Steve Johnson, 70.83%; Carol Fiorentino & John Cadwalader, 71.67%; Walt Kelso & Brenda Ward, 86.67%; Fred Schellack & Walt Kelso, 75%; Margot Cegielski & Steve Johnson, 87.5%; Brenda Ward & Walt Kelso 72.22%.

The Saturday Easybridge! lessons will not be occurring in May. New free sessions of EasyBridge! 1 & 2 (with a bit of 3 mixed in) will start up again in June.

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

I want to congratulate my friend and bridge partner, Martha Eddleman for achieving the rank of Silver Life Master. However, she has another reason for our congratulations. Martha and her daughter Katie have written a thriller; a murder mystery which takes place right here in Livermore; it is full of murder and mayhem and surprises. Invisible Injuries is up and running as an eBook on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, et al. It will be out in print version soon. Be sure to purchase it for your Kindle or your bookshelf; Invisible Injuries by MK Eddleman.

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

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

Novice Games (0-99 points) are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, and you don't even need a partner. Every "novice" Thursday we will guarantee a partner to any player with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Encourage your bridge-playing friends to give Duplicate Bridge a try! We are happy to see some of our 99ers play on Mondays as well. Keep up the good work, 99ers! The Livermore Bridge Club website is livermorebridge.com You will find a calendar of events there; you can also find Paul's bridge tips and publications via pfdubois.com/ publish There are links to neighboring units if you want to travel to your next bridge game. I am sorry to report that a player highlighted in last month's article, Franklin Lowenthal, has passed away. We will miss Frank at the bridge table. We said goodbye to a long-time player, Stan Sitzmann. Stan and his wife are moving to Minnesota. He assures us he will visit and play with us each winter! Enjoy the ice fishing Stan.

Marin

By Gail Haar

Welcome to our many new unit members: Gayle Blum, Dana Evans, Louise Gross, Linda Gruber, Kathleen Harwood & Dobbie Quinones and to our new transfers Isaac Chotiner & Mimi Levison. Congratulations to those moving up in rank – William

Moorhouse (Junior Master) and David Green & Suzanne McMahon (Club Master). On a sad note, Laura Fraser passed away recently. Laura played bridge in Marin for many years and then ran our unit website for quite awhile, bringing us into the modern connected era.

Many Marin players did well at the Santa Rosa Sectional. Coming in first in various events were Steve Marsh & Bruce Innes; Melanie Haddad & Terry Kee; Leslie & Michael Zimring; and Stan Green, Suzanne Johnson, Andrea Ventris & Jeff Sengstack. Distinguishing themselves at the NABC in Philadelphia were Andrea Ventris, Michael Hartnett, Mark Peterson, Anne Stein, Jim Griffin, Arti Bhargava, Tracy Bauer, Bill Bailey, Gene Simpson and Bruce Noda. (with apologies to anyone I might have missed) And a shout out to Unit 508's Crane Top 500 members – Bill Bailey, Arti Bhargava, Carole Liss, Gene Simpson, Bruce Noda and Bob Thomson. Closer to home, our players are excelling at the tables too. Scoring higher than 70% games were Deborah & Gerald Levine; Barbara Cooper & Miriam Kaegi; Jerome Meislin & Robert Haar; Ann Reed & Julie Coffin; and Linda Gruber & Susie McCormick. Winner of the March 11 Unit Game Swiss Teams were Ellen Weingart, Ellen Schiller, Joan Ehmann & Jerome Meislin.

For you last minute planners, on Thursday, May 10 Larry Cohen will be holding a 1-day seminar focusing on honing your Declarer Play and better understanding Doubles. It will be at Pickleweed, starting with Registration at 9:30 AM and concluding with a book signing at 3:30 PM. It's \$85 for the day, including a light lunch. Find the flyer at <http://marinbridge.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Larry-Cohen-Seminar.pdf>. Larry's events

California Capital Regional

May 28 - June 3, 2018



Tournament Highlights

- California Capital Open Swiss
Two qualifying sessions Saturday
Two final sessions Sunday
- New Knockouts Daily
- Four Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs
Tuesday Daylight Gold Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Daylight Pairs
Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3
- 10 & 3 Gold Rush Swiss Teams Sat.
- 0-3000 Bracketed Swiss Teams Sunday
*Top 3 Places in each bracket get Gold Points!
- Celebrity Speaker Program
6:15 - 6:45 Tuesday -Saturday

ENTRIES \$12

Unpaid ACBL Members \$16

Non-members will be required to become members by either purchasing an annual membership, or a \$7.99 special monthly membership.

District 21 website is your first resource

For our Regionals:

Make early partnership arrangements

Make hotel reservations

Plan your tournament events

Gather general information/directions

www.d21acbl.com

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: jmom380@yahoo.com

District 21 website: www.d21acbl.com

Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.

Schedule subject to change.

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

Reserve EARLY for the
BRIDGE RATE
\$105 single/double plus tax

916-929-8855
or
800-222-TREE

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

99er/299er Pairs Every Day
Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell
Tues-Sat at Noon
Free Student Game
(0-5mp's) Sat. 1:00

Nancy Boyd, Director in Charge

ACBL Sanction R1806034 Conventions on the General Chart allowed in all events. Mid-chart allowed in top bracket of two day KOs and any bracket which contains no team with an average master point holding of less than 1500 points, as well as four-session Open Pairs/Swiss & Flight AX Events.

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

Like us on FACEBOOK

usually sell out quickly, but you might score a last minute seat.

Did you know? 43.6 percent of all slam contracts fail; 62.7 percent of all bridge players are women; 97.8 percent of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.

Modesto/Merced/ Sonora

By Gail Vick

March's top winners were Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth with 72.59% - A's. Jim Page & Pieter Mastenbrook



finished 1st in B with 64.58%, and Barbara Page & Gail Vick were 1st in C with 60.42%.

Ralph Jungwirth garnered the most master points for March, 8.47.

In the Sunday Beginning & Intermediate Group, Toni & Ken Hillman were 1st overall in A with 62.50%, Raj Modi & Nelda Smith 1st in B with 58.34%, who also won 1st across the board on Sunday the 25th. Raj Modi & Jim Page also took 1st for the month in C's with 54.81%. Welcome to Wendy Summers, new to the Sunday Duplicate Beginning Group. Libby Longstreth, who needs to open a bakery, made a fabulous German Chocolate cake for Chris Barkley's birthday, that seemed like a mile high and appreciated by all.

At the unit game, Jeanne Russo and Jackie Wilson provided a wonderful St. Patrick's Day Celebration of Jeanne's perfectly cooked Corn Beef, Cabbage, Sauerkraut for Reuben Sandwiches and Jackie's heavenly green pistachio dessert! A world of thanks goes out to them, as well as others who helped. Overall scores went to Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth who were 1st overall in A with 63.43%, Christine Barkley & Toots

Wade were 1st in B overall with 60.19%, and Ken Hillman & Debbie DeZarn took 1st overall in C with 55.56%.

Once a month on the third Tuesday at noon, a novice beginner duplicate game is being incorporated (separately from the higher ranking game), hoping to promote more interest in Duplicate Bridge. March had 10 tables, a great start! For those interested, contact Judy Remmers, at skybursting@aol.com Should you need help in finding a partner, Judy may be able to help assist in this endeavor. Boards being played are the same as what the higher ranking divisions are playing, but not in competition with the higher ranking players. The same handouts will be provided at the end of the game, to see what are the best bids for the playing hand to achieve the highest score. A great learning tool. March's scores were won by Jeff Gaudio & Terry Sciabica, taking 1st, Raj Modi & Sandra Dieker, along with Casey O'Mara & Dena Brown who all tied for 2nd & 3rd, and Nancy Lilly & Sue Winter finishing 4th.

Congratulations go out to Lee Maddocks, who has now attained the rank of Gold Master status, achieving more than 2500 master points, on the upper level of Mount Everest, I would say!

From The Foothills:

In March, our players of the month are: The Hamilton's, Susan and Alan, took the top honors for both the Monday and Tuesday games with a total of 4.45 master points.

On Wednesday, the Solomon's, Lydia and Bob secured the "players of the month" wins with 2,46 points. On the Friday games the Davis's, Dana and Tim are the champs with 1.90 points.

Yvonne Tiscornia and Dave Jenkins had the biggest game 69.64% on March 18.

Merced Results: Master point leaders for March were: George Loscalzo, 4.16; Margaret Quinn, 2.67; Gary Smith, 2.52B Robert Frohman, 2.51; Pat Gallo, 2.49.

Monterey

By Mary Block

The annual Alzheimer's Benefit raffle will be held on June 21, with the drawing to take place at Larry's game on that Thursday. Tickets are \$50 each and will be available for purchase at the Bridge Center, starting June 1. Thanks to the generosity of the club owners, the prize is free bridge for a year. Your reporter was the fortunate winner last year and has reaped a huge profit as well as the good feelings that go with supporting a cause to whom we can all relate. I played nine times during the week of 3/19 to 3/25. Do the math!

The unit is bidding a fond farewell to Jerry Cox, who is moving to Michigan. Over the last few years Jerry has been a frequent and successful player, a valuable member of the board of directors, and, with his wife Nancy, a creative host of the annual unit holiday party. Our loss will be Michigan's gain.

The Brad Dow appreciation game was held on Sunday, March 25. Carol and Mark Maggiapinto were the overall winners in the Open and Karen and Ray Mok likewise in the 299'er section. This annual event is a tribute to the man without whom we would not be where we are, literally. As always, old timers in the unit, as part of the tribute to Brad, gave a bit of history for the newcomers.

This is your last reminder about the May Sectional at the Club, May 18-20. There are sign-up sheets for you to commit your contribution of time and effort to make this the annual success that it has always been.

Climbing the mastership ranks

46th Annual
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 (831) 384-7800

MAY 18, 19 & 20 2018

www.MontereyBridgeClub.com



FRIDAY MAY 19

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 am
 (0-750/2000/2000+)
 Stratified 499er Pairs..... 10:00 am
 (0-100/200/500) Non Life Master

 Stratified Open Pairs 3:00 pm
 (0-750/2000/2000+)
 Stratified 499er Pairs..... 3:00 pm
 (0-100/200/500) Non Life Master

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StvDbDavis@aol.com

Partnerships: Pat Heller & Susan Mazzei
 831-384-5359 or 831-684-9322
hellerpatricia@yahoo.com

Tournament Director: Lynn Yokel

Sanction #: 1805072

**S11 ACBL Members
 S15 Lapsed Members**

SATURDAY MAY 20

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 am
 (0-750/2000/2000+)
 Stratified 99er Pairs..... 10:00 am
 (0-25/50/100) Non Life Master
 (overall winners win George Gooden trophy)

 Stratified Open Pairs..... 3:00 pm
 (0-750/2000/2000+)
 Stratified 499er Pairs..... 3:00 pm
 (0-100/200/500) Non Life Master

SUNDAY MAY 21

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 am
 (0-200/500/500+)

Open Stratified Swiss Teams 10:00 am & TBA
 (0-500/1500/1500+) **2 sessions**

Swiss team event will be **two sessions** for a total of seven 7-board matches using 20-Point Victory scale.

SUNDAY LUNCH -- \$7 per person
 Sandwiches, chips & drinks
 Between Swiss Team Sessions

Available for prepurchase from our Apron Brigade

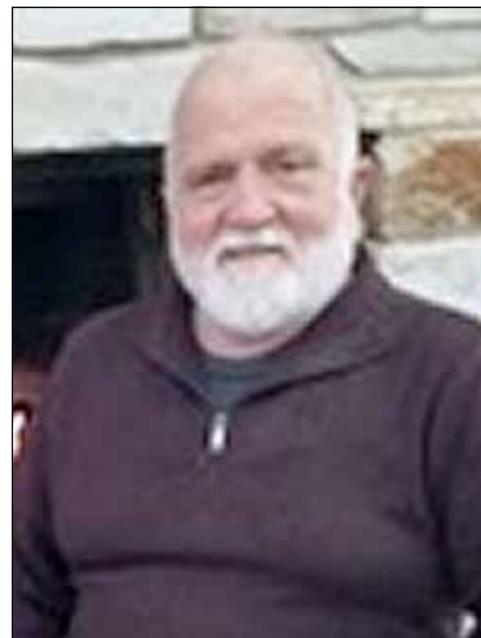
This is a Fragrance Free Tournament !

Eligibility for Swiss Team events based on average MPs of players. ALL players must qualify for events entered. Final strats based on attendance, at discretion of Director.

Directions to Bridge Center: From Hwy 1, take Exit 408 (Imjin Pkwy) away from beach. At first stoplight turn left onto 2nd Ave. Continue uphill between empty barracks to T-intersection, turn left. Bridge Center is first building on your right.



New Monterey LM Peter Degregio



New Monterey LM James Pond

this month: Barbara Svetlik (hi, partner!) and Yoshie Wong are now Club Masters. Rex Pryer has reached Sectional Master status. Remember, the more you play, the faster you will advance.

Andi Carr and Bill Shelloe had a 75.5% game in Lyde's game on March 10. Wow!

Welcome to Laurie and Mike Slagter, new members to the unit. Janice Akin and Dani Park have transferred to the unit, from Mesa, AZ and Southeastern Alaska, respectively.

In case you are not aware of this, there is a duplicate bridge game at Carmel Valley Manor on Monday afternoons. Reservations are required. Call Curt Hussey at 626-4796.

Be sure to vote during the month of May for members of the Unit Board of Directors. The results will be announced at the annual membership meeting and member appreciation game, Sunday, June 10. Details to follow.

We can be found online at www.montereybridgeclub.com (831)384-7800. I am maru0407@comcast.

net The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

This will be the last report that you will receive in the newspaper form. Starting in May, the newsletter will be published online. For those of you that hang onto every word that



I print, make sure you'll be able to locate the web address.

Not every unit can have a birthday party for a 101 year old member, but Unit 512 did! We celebrated Doris Leckie's birthday in March and she said she had played in many clubs, but this one is the friendliest one she has ever played in. Yes, our unit does pride itself in our friendly atmosphere and it's all because of you the players. Thanks for being such a great group!

Thanks to John Coulston, Marge Sheridan, and the VDBC board of directors for the great food and decorations they supplied for St. Patrick's Day and Easter/Passover celebrations. They always do a wonderful job in making every Holiday a festive occasion.

We have lots of winners in our unit and also players who came in first place in our games. In Napa, it was the duo of Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson winning twice of which one game was a 71%. Richard Tebay also won twice, once with Anita Pensler and once with Dan Harp. Adrienne Varin & David Cappucini won the other game. Gerry Fox won both of the unit games, once with Danielle Hejmanowski and once with Tom Jacobson.

In Rio Vista, Sue Vogtlin & Bob Lohse, John Shick & Alan Morris, Lawrence Epner & Xiao Gong, and Tad Quayle & Robert Wiskotzil took home the honors.

Break up the O'Briens! Jim and Frances O'Brien played in 7 events in Sonoma in March, won 3 of them and averaged 61.75% for the 7 games. Congratulations to them! I guess it's only fitting that the O'Briens should do well in the month of St. Patrick. Sigrid Price won twice, once with Bob Klein and once with Evelyn Holtz. Other

winners included John & Patty Shribbs, Clyde & Kathleen Smith, and Red Falk & Jack Zeller.

The 499er Tuesday games were won by Eileen Holsten & Sandy Hicks, Havard & Susan Staggs, Dennis Sturdevant and Brooke Farkas, and there was a tie between Dick Hale & Willa Mundell and Marilyn Edwardes & Doris Mendell.

Congratulations to Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson for winning the Open Pairs game in the Santa Rosa Sectional. Carolyn Lowe & Gretchen Filer finished second in the 299er game in the morning as did Carol Fraser & Ram Ramanathan in the afternoon game.

The Beginning Bridge series will continue starting on Tuesday, May 8 in the Vintage House. The class will be on Defense. Rumor has it that an internationally acclaimed instructor will be teaching the class.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney



Here we are in our digital version of the D21 newsletter, and I hope you are checking in, faithful reader. I still have a 500 word limit, and my deadline is a month before publication, so don't expect breaking news here. But we can now have photos, so if you become a life master or have a special Kudo, send me your photo and we can celebrate it here.

May is a busy month at Unit 503. We will be hosting our Non-Life-Master Sectional (Silver Points!) on May 5, featuring pairs games for 49ers, 99ers, and 499ers. For more info and sign-up, check our website under "events" or contact Carl Baeuerlen and Jim

Hulseman at: carlandjimbridge@gmail.com Next, on Saturday & Sunday, May 12-13, we're looking forward to Larry Cohen's seminars: "Second Hand Play," "NT Defense," "Throw-In Plays," and "Finding the Queen." It is not too late to sign up at: www.paloaltobridge.com. If you do it today, you can get the early bird



Youth players at last year's seminar.

registration fee of \$85 per day before it goes up to \$95 on May 1. And SiVY youth receive free admission!

Other events on the 503 calendar are: Free lecture by Tony Glynne discussing pre-empts on May 8 and one by Gary MacGregor on May 22, topic TBA. Unit games are on May 20 (Swiss Teams) and May 26 (Pairs). And don't forget, May 7-12 is STaC week with silver points given for the Sectional Tournament at Clubs.

Have you checked out our fabulous bridge library, supported by the Peninsula Bridge Education Foundation? Unit members may check out up to two books at a time before and after games. The library key is available from Val Baldwin, Fran Bennett or any director. Our library works on the honor system. Unfortunately, a recent audit shows that there are sixty books which have been taken without checking them out. If you have one of these books, please bring it home, so that everyone

can enjoy it as much as you did.

If you haven't read the Bridge Bulletin cover-to-cover, you may have missed the final results of the 2017 masterpoint races. Kudos to the eight SiVY players who were ranked in the top 25 youth players in the ACBL: Cornelius Duffie; Michael Hu; Kevin Rosenberg; Rory Xiao; Brent Xiao; Sarah Youngquist; Arthur Zhou; and David Zheng. We are so proud! Special kudos to our newest Life Master, SiVY member, Sarah Youngquist. And Brent Xiao was recently honored as the Non-Life-Master who won the most points in Palo Alto unit games for 2017.

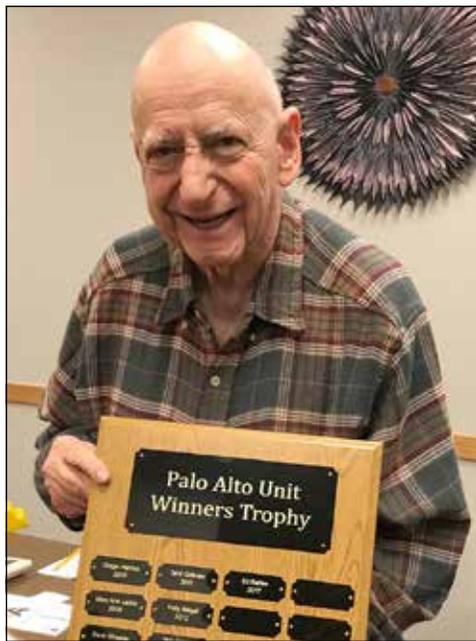


Unit President Dan Thatte presents Brent Xiao with the award for most points won by a Non-Life Master

Also honored was our winning open player (most overall points in unit games), our beloved Ed Barlow.

At a club game recently, our opponents gave my partner and I a good chuckle: After a competitive auction where East bid to 3 diamonds, while his partner was silent throughout, East surveyed the barren dummy and said to his partner: "You overbid."

Bye for Now.



Ed Barlow



New Life Master Sarah Youngquist

Reno

By Sandy Powell

February was Awards Month.

Gil Ramirez won The Ace of Clubs Award by earning 200.28 points in 2017. Only black points earned exclusively in club (not tournament) games count towards this Award. In 1972, the Award was formally renamed the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Award. Because Helen had won the Grand Life Master annual Ace of Clubs award so many times, the ACBL

thought it fitting to rename the Award in her honor. She died in 2013 at age 94. During Helen's lifetime, she earned 24,393 masterpoints, nearly 19,000 of which were black points from club games.

Virginia Kellermeyer won the mini-McKenny Award by accumulating a total of 281.41 masterpoints of all colors in both tournament and club play. This award is named after the founder of the ACBL William McKenny (1891-1950). In 1927, under the auspices of McKenny, the American Auction League (which McKenny had founded) merged with the American Bridge League to become the ACBL. McKenny became the first Secretary (now called CEO) of the newly formed ACBL and held that position until 1948.

The McKenny Award was established in 1937 which honored the ACBL member who had accumulated the most points during the past calendar year. The mini-McKenny Award, established in 1975, honors the individual Club member who has earned the most masterpoints. Congratulations to Gil and Virginia!

Top Scores in March: In the overall competition, only one pair broke 70%. That honor goes to Virginia Jensen and Betsy Thuman who had a whopping 76.20% game. In the 299er competition, Brad Stone & Marie Ernst beat out Earlene Martin & Terry Retter by 63.0% to 62.0%, respectively.

It's time to start thinking about The Longest Day; the day we play bridge all day to raise money for the Alzheimer Association. The big money, however, has to be raised before bridge day. Last year, Unit 473 raised \$6800 under the awesome leadership of Susan Powell. This year, our goal is \$10,000. To meet that goal, Susan

needs a lot of help with a host of activities including 2 garage sales. So, everyone, let Susan know what you can do to help by emailing her at smpowell1@earthlink.net or texting 512-351-1539.

Condolences to Mary Aaroo whose husband passed last month.

Bridge Guidelines: The Rule of 2, 3, and 4. Many use this guideline to decide whether or not to preempt. Count your losers, subtract from 13 to determine winners. Add 2 to the number of winners with unfavorable vulnerability, add 3 with equal vulnerability and 4 with favorable vulnerability. If, for example, you have 6 winners: open 2 with unfavorable vulnerability; open 3 with equal vulnerability; open 4 with favorable vulnerability.

Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

I feel so guilty after interviewing Unit 505 member, Tournament Director Pam Hughes, because I have shown up at many a tournament with absolutely no appreciation for the voluminous amount of work involved in her job! Pam is a dynamo, taking charge of the regionals in District 21 - Santa Clara, Reno, Monterey, Modesto and Sacramento.

She estimates that she puts in 300 hours for just one tournament. In addition, she works with 2 other staff members, 2 hospitality chairs and 2-4 caddies. "No sane person would take this job due to the e-mails alone," she bemoaned. She gets hundreds of e-mails per tournament, often dealing with questions people could get answered if they would only look up the flyer online!

Pam began her career as a tournament director by assisting her mom, the iconic Jackie Matthews, in 2003, eventually taking charge

as Tournament Director in 2006. "I've always tried to follow in my mom's footsteps and go the extra mile," she shared. Although the job is extremely stressful, the players help her keep her sense of humor and "I love being at tournaments," she stated, "And seeing all of my people!"

Pam also encourages complaints as well as compliments, so she can make sure everything is even better the next time! She is obviously too busy to play bridge herself at tournaments, making sure she is always accessible and often filling in at the Partnership Desk. Pam is a real trouper; she has maintained a vigorous pace in spite of breaking her foot in Reno and is just now getting off the cast.

Negotiating with the various hotels can be both challenging and aggravating with staff turnover and changes as hotels become part of franchises becoming more profit-oriented and less service-oriented. And she added, "You have to be psychic to know how many rooms you are going to fill. If you have too many rooms, you may owe the hotel money."

Pam generates excitement about the fall regional in Reno. "It's going to be a great tournament and you can't beat the weekday room rate of around \$69. in the Tower."

Prior to booking Modesto, Pam searched everywhere in the Bay Area. "People used to want our business. Now, I'm doing everything I can to keep the tournament going in Santa Clara." This is the last tournament for Modesto.

In addition to being Tournament Director, Pam has been a teacher on cruises and is a director for Lincoln Hills Sun City. She was last a tournament director at the Nationals 3 years ago in Reno. One

of her pet peeves as a director is how many people have learned the rules incorrectly from their local club directors. "It seems that 299ers are especially guilty of telling other players (incorrectly) what the rules are. Always call the director," she advises. And when she is in doubt, she texts national directors. Pam's favorite pros whom she considers to be some of the top American players include the under forty crowd of David Grainger, Justin Lall, Joel Wooldridge and Daniel Korbel.

Previous to her career as a tournament director, Pam enjoyed a successful career as a musician. She has a double degree in flute and voice performance from Portland State and had an active career teaching privately, in a Catholic school and for the Royal Australian Army Orchestra, also performing extensively in various orchestras on the flute. "I was very exposed as a flutist. Become a tournament director was trading one stress for the other," she joked.

Pam's other passion is her dogs. She currently spends a lot of time caring for her beloved ailing 17 1/2 year old poodle, Lucy, and her 3 year old Yorkie-poo, Maggie. And she eagerly awaits meeting her 6 month old grandson, Jack (named after her mom) for the first time who is coming for a visit from back East after the Modesto tournament.

Sacramento will be holding its annual Spring Sectional May 4-6 at the Orangevale Community Center in Orangevale. Tournament Co-Chairs are Dave Willmott and Sam Sandusky. Partnership Co-Chairs are Marc Grunseth (916-971-3988) and Miriam Steinberg (916-607-4947, 916-971-4947). Flyers are available with details in the Kibitzer online or at your local clubs.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Greetings from cyberspace! I hope all of my faithful readers will continue perusing my column online



now that the Forum has gone digital. Kill a pixel, save a tree! Back IRL, we've got lots of news:

This travelogue is a bit belated due to deadline timing, but here's a report from the Spring NABC. Your peripatetic columnist greatly enjoyed Philly. I hadn't been there since I visited my aunt once when I was in college, back when dinosaurs roamed the earth. In between bridge

sessions, I got in some sightseeing, first Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. I always find that icons are icons for a reason; no matter how many photos, reproductions, and pieces of kitsch I've seen, standing before the actual icon is a remarkable experience. That was true again with the Liberty Bell. It's a marvel. It's huge, and so is the crack!

Next stop was the Barnes Museum, a beautiful work of modern architecture housing an incredible collection of Impressionist era art. Lots of Cezanne, Matisse, a few Picassos, just amazing stuff. And Philly has terrific food. I had one good meal after another. The host hotel was across the street from the Reading Terminal Market, a century old landmark somewhat like our Ferry

Building, with lots of interesting food stalls. Within a few blocks was the 13th St. restaurant row, one remarkably good place after another in restored historic townhouses. Disdaining cheesesteaks, I went to two vegan restaurants, one called Vedge (great name!).

And of course the NABC itself was major fun, especially getting to play against big shots like Judi Radin, Lynn Deas, and Mike Cappelletti. Partner and I were especially proud of giving Cappelletti a bad board on the first hand of the Mixed Pairs. Sorry Mike —not! But man it was cold -- mid to high 30's and windy. I brought an overcoat, sweaters, mufflers, gloves, and a hat, and needed every bit of it. Brrr!

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SAN FRANCISCO SECTIONAL
June 9 & 10, 2018
Janet Pomeroy Center
207 Skyline Blvd San Francisco

SATURDAY 10:30 am	SUNDAY 10:30 am
Two Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-750/2000/+	Bracketed Swiss Teams 4 rounds - 7 boards per Round Brackets based on average number of masterpoints for a team. Each team plays the other teams in its bracket except any team can choose to play in the top bracket
Single Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-500/1500/+	Single Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-50/300/+
Single Session Newcomer Pairs Stratified at 0-20/50/100	*FREE* Single Session Novice Pairs
Single Session 499'er Pairs Stratified at 0-100/300/500 <i>No player can have more than 500 MP</i>	0-10 Masterpoints only (NO TABLE FEE!)
3:00 pm	3:00 pm
Second Session Open Pairs	Second Session Swiss Teams 3 Rounds - 7 Boards per Round
Single Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-200/500/+	Single Session Open Pairs (24 boards) Stratified at 0-200/500/+
Single Session Newcomer Pairs Stratified at 0-20/50/100	

Strata for pairs events based on masterpoint average for the two players
TOURNAMENT CHAIR: Libby Norenha (415-566-9485; libbynorenha@gmail.com)
PARTNERSHIPS: Gail Gabiati (415-566-9135; gail@intrinsicdevices.com) (email preferred)
MID-CHART Conventions OK except for newcomer and 499'er events
Per Session: \$12 Members *\$16 Unpaid Members *Half price for students under 25 yrs of age
LUNCH on both days provided by *pre-purchased meal ticket at time of entry*. \$5.00 sandwiches & side
Free coffee, tea and snacks
No need to pre-register, just show up! See www.unt506.org for directions to Pomeroy Center

as always May brings us the Spring STaC. Get yourself to your favorite club during the week of May 7-13 and win bushels of silver points. The unit game schedule continues, with the very popular format of pregame lesson, lunch, and three sections in play, on May 19.

Lunch is at 11:30, game at noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough St. at Geary. All are welcome. Finally, May means that it's almost June, and that means it's time to get ready for the always fantastic SF Summer Sectional, on June 10-11. There's lots of bridge to be played — come join us.

Congrats to this month's ladder climbers: Junior Masters Karen Beard, Judith Duffy, and Mark Robb; and Club Master Laura Storto. Good job, everyone! Welcome to our new members Brandi Chavin, Nancy Field, and Alvis Hendley, and a big time transfer, pro player Aaron Jones from San Diego. Be sure to say *bienvenue* and *willkommen* to them when you meet them at the table.

Finally, we sadly say goodbye this month to two longtime SF players, Virginia Pappas and Eleanor Frankel. Virginia was a regular at QuickTricks for decades and more recently at Cardology. She took periodic breaks from bridge, vowing to find a less frustrating hobby, but her love of the game always lured her back. And even when she was on hiatus, she could always be counted on to volunteer for the QuickTricks Pro/Am, to lend a hand to a newer player. Ellie counted bridge among her many interests and accomplishments and played often at Pips and Stan's game. Both of these lovely women will be much missed. Our condolences to their friends and families.

Happy spring and baseball season, everyone! See you at the table or out at the ballpark!

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

Awards were the name of the game on March 17, as the Ted Richmond Pro-Am unit game was held amid the wearing of the green for St. Patrick's Day. Green hats and shamrock necklaces on display, 66 players enjoyed a competitive and instructive game. Gentle reminders and reinforcement of good habits characterized the camaraderie of the Pros and their respective Ams. Thanks to all. Earning Masterpoints for their efforts were: 1st place winners in the Pro-Am, Betty Szteinbaum & Linda Duncan; 1st place winners in the side game A section, Akiko Murakami & Scott Maa, B section, Kit Morse & Sharon Sloan. Congratulations everyone.

The Unit 498 Mini-McKenney awards were presented that afternoon. These medallions are presented to players in each unit who earn the most total Masterpoints (of any color) during the previous year. The awards are presented to players by ranking level. First place awards in their respective ranking levels were presented to Kit Morse, Bob Gleason, Devlin Delaney, Wesley May, Janelle Van Rensselaer, Lorelei Greenfield, Akiko Murakami, Virginia Wailes, Joel Steinberg, Cheryl Haines, Andrew Hoskins, Fred Chasalow, Bill Heid and Yatindra Sahae.

Additionally, the Unit 498 2017 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards were presented at the game. This award is presented to players earning the most master points in club games during the year. The certificates are presented to players by ranking level. First place awards in their respective ranking levels were presented to Susan Papilion, Robyn Lee, Sheila Felker, Loren Charlton, Janelle Van Rensselaer, Lorelei Greenfield, Akiko Murakami,

Virginia Wailes, Joel Steinberg, John Lawton, Aster Wu, Fred Chasalow, Ted Richmond and Yatindra Sahae.

Finally, the awards culminated as Ted Richmond's achievement of Emerald Life Master was noted with an appropriately emerald-themed cake at the conclusion of the luncheon following the game.

Those readers of the Bridge Forum's April edition may have noted the comments of Forum Managing Editor, Ken Monzingo, who cited an eye popping statistic that our average membership age is approaching 75 (probably no surprise to folks who play club games regularly!). This situation has drawn the attention of all units in the ACBL and active steps are being taken to introduce and encourage new and younger players to our game. Unit 498 has stepped up to the challenge by introducing bridge to middle school and high school students through our Peninsula Youth Bridge (PYB) program which has been mentioned in previous months in this column. In support of that effort, our April 21 unit game was a fund raiser for PYB. My next column will provide information on the success of that effort.

In addition to PYB, our clubs offer opportunities for adults who wish to learn the game. Jennifer Kuhn reports that her EasyBridge! group is well underway with as many as 36 students engaged on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11:30 at Fattoria e Mare. There is room for additional students. If you know someone who wants to learn the game please have them contact Jennifer by e-mail to jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com.

Similarly, Carol Knowles has signed up 8 new members for our unit at her 49'er Common Game held at 9:15 am on Thursday mornings at the Bayshore Bridge Club. This is a fun and relaxed game for players that

are new to duplicate. Everyone gets one bidding question during play followed by discussion of problem hands after the game.

Congratulations to winners with scores over 70% in the month of March: Maria Corradino, Melody Butterworth, Norman Cohen, Vaughn Patterson, and Anne Silver.

Agnes Lee's Mentored Play on Friday mornings at the Bayshore Bridge Club is another opportunity to fine tune your game. All games are listed on our website www.unit498.com.

Interest is growing in the upcoming Longest Day event. The folks behind the scenes are not divulging all their secrets for a successful event, but a silent auction and a raffle with very tempting prizes are being developed. Keep June 21 marked in red on your calendars. A fun day for a great cause!

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

The Santa Cruz Rising Stars Sectional was a rousing success. Sydney Ruben reported



receiving unsolicited feedback from several players visiting from out of town. They expressed their enjoyment of our tournaments and said they look forward to them each year. In particular, they commented on how nice our members are and how good the food is. So very true!

The board thanks all those who worked on the tournament, contributed food, and were their naturally nice selves. Particular thanks go to Jan Winham, Bette Harkin, Laura McCabe, Pam Benz, Ken Martin, Josh Karter, Rick Zinman, Elena Laborde Bishop,

David Harken, John Walker, Robert Johnson, Alicia Keen, John Wesolowski, Gina Brown, Carol Cowen and last, but never least, John Benich.

Unit 550 members took home points and had a fine showing. Particular congratulations go to: Rick Zinman & Josh Karter, 1st in A, Stratified Open; Gloria Reiss, 1st in D, Stratified Newcomer; Thomas Burke & Sydney Reuben, 1st in C, Stratified Pairs; and to Steven & Kristin Smith, Harold Wasserstrom & Sydney Reuben, 1st in C, Swiss Teams.

Steven Nelson, a beginner from one of Nancy Wainer's classes, called Laura McCabe for help in finding a partner. She matched him up with Ajay Bansal of Sunnyvale. Ajay had never played duplicate or used a bidding box. This was the first tournament for both men, and they came in 1st in D & E in the Sunday Newcomer Pairs. High 5's all around and a big thank you from both men to Laura. What a wonderful story!

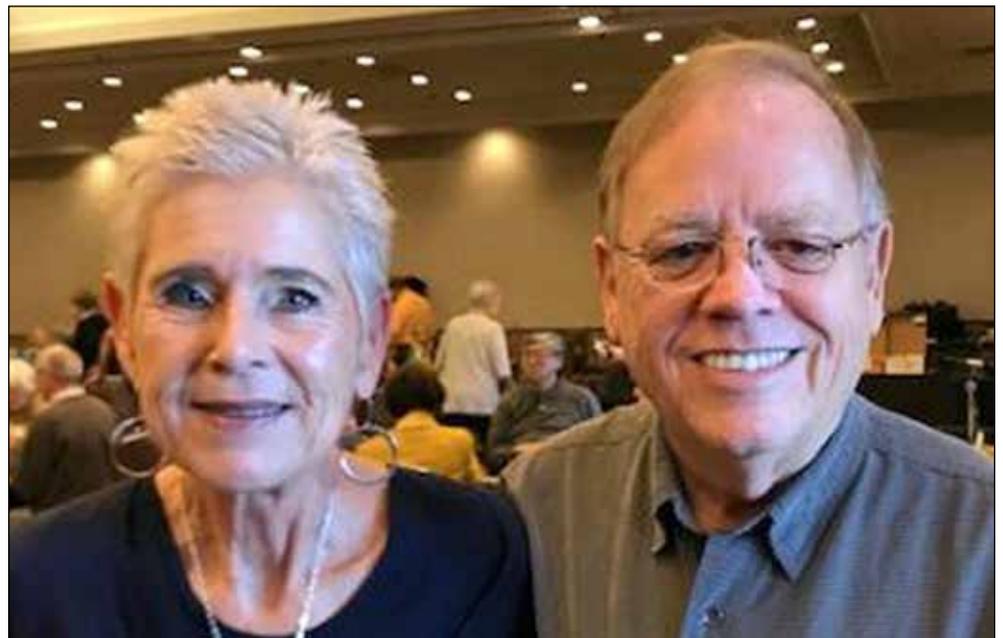
Finishing in the top 10% of MP earners at the Rising Stars were: Rick Zinman, Josh Karter, Steve & Kristin Smith and Sydney Reuben.

High scores in club games were earned by: John Hullman & John Walker, 70.24%; and Ken Llacera & Mick Friedberg, 80.06% (you guys were on fire!).

High scores in club Beginner Games went to: Betsy Allen & Carolyn Watanabe, 75.25%; Michael Kerner & Pat Emmons, 73.14%; Janet Nicholas & Lori Lee Biagi, 72.35%; John Wesolowski & Michael Burk, 72.11%; and Deb & Vern Dotters, 70.63%.

We have some milestones to recognize this month. Congratulations go to Carol Maggipinto, Sapphire Life Master, Ken Gamble, Gold Life Master and Lani Ray, Gold Life Master.

Unit 550 hosts games most days and several evenings. There are also lessons for different levels of play throughout the week. Our Unit Game will be on Saturday, May 12. To see the complete Unit 550 schedule and calendar, or to contact one of our club owners, go to our website at www.santacruzbridge.org and be sure to visit our Face Book page. As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue, please use unscented, non-perfumed products.



New Sapphire Life Master Carol Maggipinto and new Gold Life Master Ken Gamble.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

Our St. Patrick's Day Weekend Spring Sectional March 17 & 18 was a terrific success in many ways. Attendance far exceeded our hopes with both rooms almost full. We were especially happy to see so many 299ers. Big thanks go to all of our recruiters who encouraged friends from other units to join us for the weekend.

We had guests from Marin; San Francisco; Napa; East Bay; Palo Alto; Albany; Diablo Valley; Burlingame; Sacramento; Monterey; Eureka; Astoria, OR; Silicon Valley; and San Diego. Maxine Reagh and Jane Bender co-chaired the event and got great help from the rest of the board. Many thanks to the players who brought goodies for a full table of morning and afternoon snacks each day.

People seemed to enjoy the lunch offerings of sandwiches from Uli's Deli on Saturday and boxed lunch sandwiches from Panera on Sunday. The dozens of homemade cookies that Jane Bender and Tony Jackson made to round out Saturday's lunch were a hit. Special thanks to our wonderful caddies, Emmet, Aidan and Freya, who also set up and took down tables and chairs, arriving early on Saturday morning and staying late on Sunday afternoon. The caddies appreciated the generous tips in the tip jars.

Finally, thanks to Tournament Directors Lynn Yokel and Evelyn Holtz, who made it all run smoothly. Saturday's first place winners include Steve Marsh and Bruce Innes; Jean O'Donnell and Kathleen Harms; Linda Marin and Barbara Norman; Catherine Seferi and Susan Weinberg; and Tom Jacobson and Gerald Fox. Sunday first place teams were Patricia Fidelak, Robert Goetzinger, Dennis Sturdevant, Margery Levit; David

Oliver Jr, Linda Oliver, Michael Zimring, Leslie Zimring; Donna Neff, Shelley Schuster, Jane Bender, Margaret Brown; Marlys Green, Tony Ramsden, Naomi Ramsden, Karen Weissberg; Randy Ryals, Lynn Giusti, Carol Kemper, Stephanie Singer; Gail Gabiati, Hinda Gilbert, Kris Wong, Dolores Mackinnon; Stanley Green, Suzanne Johnson, Andrea Ventris, Jeff Sengstack; Nancy Gunn, Prudence Saunders, John Kozero, Gary Robinson; and Mark Hersko, Mary Omodt, Jonathan Cohen, Larry Spanier.

We look forward to another successful Unit 509 Sectional the weekend of September 29 and 30. Mark your calendars!

Kathy Venton is offering Absolute Beginner Bridge Lessons at the Bridge Gallery beginning Tuesday evening, May 29. The course lasts 7 weeks, and the first class is free. Graduates of the class may repeat any session for \$5. See <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/> for details.

There were three 70+ games in March. In Petaluma, Susan Mullaly and Bill Grasse, 70.83%; and Lilyan Frank and Cecelia Zachar, 70.14. At the Bridge Gallery, Kathy Venton and Chris Flindt, 70.08%.

Two players in Unit 509 flew up in rank in March. Charlene Stone is now a Regional Master, and Linda Marin has earned her NABC Master status. Congratulations Charlene and Linda!

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

I'm writing this column one day before our unit's spring sectional commences, so I'll be reporting on that next month. Though this magazine is moving into a new all-digital format and the name and publisher may be changing, the

column deadlines haven't changed yet.

The annual Unit 507 member appreciation game, potluck dinner, and membership meeting will be held on Sunday, July 8, in the Roosevelt Room of the Campbell Community Center, so save the date. Signup sheets will be posted at the San Jose Bridge Center closer to the game time. The game is free to Unit 507 members.

The nationals took place in Philadelphia in March. In national events, Cheryl Mandala & Yul Inn placed 22nd in the Platinum Pairs. Stu Goodgold & Bud Biswas were 25th in the Silver Ribbon Pairs. In the North American Pairs, Alan Wood was 4th in Flight B while Rick Jasper & John Wachsmann were 7th. In Flight C, Roy Tsai was 12th and Jung Hu was 15th.

Michael Rosenberg's team tied for 5th in the Vanderbilt Knockouts. In regional events, in two-session pair games, Will Watson and Li-Chung Chen each had section tops. (Some unit members did well in side pair events, but it's my practice not to report on those because otherwise some columns would get too long.)

At a non-Life Master sectional in Santa Cruz, Pradeep Verma & Shrikant Sathe were first in their strat in a pairs game.

Congratulations to the Unit's newest Masters: Valerie Hamilton, Yin Lin, Michele Liu (Junior); Wei Chen, Michael Cohn, Ron Fox, Calix Tang (Club); Paul Kullman (Sectional); Bob Woldstad (Bronze); Raghu Agarwal (Silver); Daren Kuo (Ruby).

I'll remind you that Unit members will be asked at the July 8 meeting to vote on an amendment to the Unit's bylaws. The text of the amendment was in last month's column. I won't repeat it here, but there is a link on sjbridge.org

South County

By Kate Hare

The second Unit 500 sponsored event of the year, the Salad Lunch and Pairs Game was held in April. Special recognition was given to the winners of the 2017 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Races. Certificates and pins were awarded to the recipients and cake was served after lunch in their honor. All was provided by the Unit 500 Board of Directors.

It may seem like old news at this point but if you wish to review the list of winners, you can do so by visiting the ACBL website, acbl.org Choose Races from the menu on the Home Page, under Masterpoint Races on the side menu choose Unit Races and use the drop down fields to select 2017 and Unit 500. You may also want to see how Unit 500 players compare with other players in District 21.

Find the results for District 21 by choosing District Race. While you are there check the standing, so far, for competitors in the 2018 races. It's hard to believe but the year is already one third over. The masterpoint accrual is already substantial and impressive for the top players.

Tournament Trail: March was a quiet month for tournaments. There were only two within driving distance, the N/I Tournament in Santa Cruz and the Santa Rosa Spring Sectional, and there were no Unit 500 players who placed at either one. However, there were tournament opportunities almost every weekend in April, including the very popular Modesto Regional, held the second week of the month. The Silicon Valley Sectional, the Marin Spring Sectional and the Diablo Valley Sectional all took place in April and are always well attended by Unit 500 players. Predictably there will be numerous winners to report when the results become available. Big Wins: Darrell Fung had several big games

in March. At the Danville Bridge Club he and partner David Snyder earned a 69.94% game on the 13th. At Lamorinda Bridge Club on the 14th he, with partner Jerry Weitzner, had a 72.49% game and on the 30th, again in Danville, he and David earned 72.48%. Well done and congratulations to all!

Charlie Conrad also had an impressive win in February. He achieved a perfect score participating in Bridge Bulletin's "It's Your Call" interactive bidding game. You can see his name at the very top of the list of players who ranked among the top scorers by bidding like the professionals. The list of winners can be found on page 73 of the April magazine.

New Members and Members on the Move: Welcome to Jenny Zhang, Kenneth Hui and Debra Jones, new members to ACBL and Unit 500. Welcome also Vincent Yang who transferred his membership to Unit 500 and farewell Daniel Classen who transferred his membership to Palo Alto. With these changes the membership in Unit 500, as of April 1, totals 202 players.

Advancements: There was only one Master Rank change: Congratulations Rory Xiao, the Unit's newest Advanced NABC Master!

Stockton

By Wendy Buchanan

March came in like a lion and thankfully added much needed rain to our area. Thankfully it also went out like a lamb providing warm, sunny days before the heat of summer hits us. Whatever the weather it's always a good time to play bridge.

The Stockton Bridge Center has begun a series of lessons on 2/1 bidding for social bridge players and long-time duplicate players who want to expand their game. To our delight we have 24 students! The class started mid March

and is being taught by Lorna Crooks. It is meeting twice a month and will consist of ten lessons. And, of course, we are hoping to entice the social bridge players to try duplicate at our center. Thanks to ACBL's adding a temporary one month membership it gives them an inexpensive way to try it out.

SBC: Team Nutting (Bill and Ann) continue to post high scores this month. They had two 70% games earning a 72.14% in one session and 76.86% in another. Lorna Crooks and Lee Maddocks were the next highest with a 69.94% game.

SBC Intermediate: John Oesterle and Marge Walden were the high scorers for March in our Thursday game. Jerry Baba and Sharon Metcalf posted the high game in E/W for the other intermediate game with a 61.74% score. Right on their heels were Judy Tillinghast and Marilyn Rickard with 61.55% in the N/S position.

Oak Park: We welcomed newcomers Jay Smith and David Clement to our weekly Wednesday game at the Stockton Senior Center. The Nuttings posted the high game of the month with a 68.59% game.

Many of us are heading to Modesto the second week of April to play in their regional. We're looking forward to earning lots of red and gold points, well at least playing lots of bridge and seeing tournament trail friends!

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To reach every
member of District 21
in our new monthly
magazine, Contact
Rich Luttrell at
luttrellr@sbcglobal.net

District 21 Board of Directors

Unit 465	Bob Garret	bobgar101@charter.net
Unit 465	Leona Pchelkin	lpchelkin@pyramid.net
Unit 473	Gil Ramirez	ramirezgil_2000@yahoo.com
Unit 473	Jill Wallace	gmjillian@gmail.com
Unit 497	Mark Kornmann	beerman1949@gmail.com
Unit 497	Joyce Burks	jburks@berkeley.edu
Unit 498	Jackie Lowenberg	jackielowenberg@gmail.com
Unit 498	Janelle Van Rensselaer	janellevanr@janellevanr.com
Unit 499	Anne Hollingsworth	scootcat@pacbell.net
Unit 499	Lyn Sacco	lyn.sacco@gmail.com
Unit 500	Charlie Conrad	cconrad313@aol.com
Unit 500	Carla Francis	cfrancis14@sbcglobal.net
Unit 501	Art Mirin	aamirin@comcast.net
Unit 501	Jean Barry	jbarry.d21@gmail.com
Unit 502	Carol Warren	carolwarren@mindspring.com
Unit 502	Doug Couchman	DougCouchman@sbcglobal.net
Unit 503	Prue Saunders	prue@pruesauanders.com
Unit 503	Kip Kado	kipkado@gmail.com
Unit 505	Katherine Ewing	turtle7nt@att.net
Unit 505	Sharon Neff	Neffsm@aol.com
Unit 506	Marion Robertson	mrobertson@msn.com
Unit 506	Dean Wangsvick	deanwangsvick314@comcast.net
Unit 507	Ray Yuenger	rayyuenger@gmail.com
Unit 507	Stu Goodgold	stugo@sbcglobal.net
Unit 508	Arti Bhargava	abhargava@compasslexecon.com
Unit 508	Tracey Bauer	tlcinsf@hotmail.com
Unit 509	Jackie Ortiz	jackieo@sonic.net
Unit 509	Kathy Juarez	kjuarez@sonic.net
Unit 510	Marilyn Minden	mminden@comcast.net
Unit 510	Mary Sievers	Marysweet15@yahoo.com
Unit 512	Sigrid Price	sigridp@sbcglobal.net
Unit 512	Don Powell	metzpowe@cwnet.com
Unit 522	Richard Meffley	Sorter52@ix.netcom.com
Unit 522	Anthony Toto	ca1ant@aol.com
Unit 524	Linda King	linda.king@hughes.net
Unit 524	Patricia Stone	patty.stone@charter.net
Unit 529	Libby Longstreth	Libby10@sbcglobal.net
Unit 530	Debbie Davis	StvDbDavis@aol.com
Unit 530	Richard Papst	richardjpapst@gmail.com
Unit 550	Ken Llacera	pasa49@pacbell.net
Unit 550	Laura McCabe	laura@philippians313.org

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ACBL DISTRICT 21 OFFICERS

TOM PAJAK

District 21 President
tompajak999@gmail.com

RAY YUENGER

District 21 Vice President
rayyuenger@gmail.com

JEAN BERRY

Treasurer
jbarry.d21@gmail.com

SANDI DAVIS

Secretary
sandi.david21@gmail.com

JACKIE ZAYAC

District Director
jackiezayac@gmail.com

PAM HUGHES

Tournament Manager
jmom380@yahoo.com

TRACEY BAUER

Social Media
tlcinsf@hotmail.com

PUBLICATION STAFF

RICH LUTTRELL

Editor
luttrellr@sbcglobal.net

GRANT ROBINSON

Web Site Administrator
dist21webmaster@gmail.com