

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter Vol 1, Number 10 February 2019

Fall 2019 NABC San Francisco

By Jim Leuker, NABC Chairman

Before you know it, the San Francisco Fall 2019 NABC will be here. Let me offer you a terrific opportunity. You can purchase naming rights to an event right now. You can name an event after your friend, your bridge partner or a business. What a great gift this would make for someone you care about. The name of the person or business will appear in the tournament schedule. Rates start as low as \$150 for a single session event to up to \$2,500 to sponsor a whole day. The only restriction is that nationally-rated events cannot be named except by ACBL. Please see the flyer on page 14 for more details. The sooner you act on this opportunity, the better. Proceeds from naming sales will go towards tournament hospitality.

Once again the venue for our tournament is the Marriott Marquis on 4th Street between Market and Mission Streets. We expect between 4,000 and 5,000 bridge players to attend. They will come from local clubs, and probably from all 50 states and from several dozen countries. Although it's a North American championship, it will have a definite international flavor too. The hotel is currently undergoing a renovation. The lobby remodeling is completed and it looks very hip. The other areas will be ready by the time of our visit. The tournament dates are November 28 through December 8. You can reserve a room at the Marriott at the six-month-out mark, roughly May 15. As always, book your reservation through onPeak. We have a reserved room block of 1200 rooms and we expect to fill them all. If necessary, we'll arrange for an overflow hotel as we get closer to the event. We've negotiated a great

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District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager

Hi all, I'd like to invite you to our next regional, the California Capital in Sacramento. This tournament begins on Memorial Day each year. In 2019 it will be from May 27 through June 2.



The tournament is held at the DoubleTree Hotel. Their phone number is (916) 929-8855. The bridge rate is \$109 for a room with two doubles or one queen bed. There is a \$10 surcharge for a king bed, and if you want to stay in the Cal Expo wing it is \$149.

The tournament as always will feature a myriad of bridge events to suit players of every level. You may view the full schedule on the ACBL website, or visit our district website, www.d21acbl.com, where you can not only view the tournament schedule but find

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District 21 2019 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

Grand National Team season is upon us. Schedules for all four Flights are posted on the District 21 website. Registration for all Flights is also on the D21 site, and is always one week before the event begins (Friday at midnight). If there



are more than 16 entries for a Flight, an extra day would potentially be added to the schedule, to avoid shortened matches. Sign up, play, and compete. The winners of each Flight receive a stipend from D21 to travel to the National Finals in Las Vegas, July 2019.

Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

Feb 8–10, 2019

Sacramento Spring NLM Sectional

Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Feb 9–10, 2019

Grand National Teams

Championship Flight District Finals

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA
(continues Feb 16–17 in Burlingame)

Feb 15–18, 2019

Fresno Winter Sectional

Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Feb 16–17, 2019

Grand National Teams

Flight B District Finals

Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame CA

Feb 23–24, 2019

San Mateo County Winter Sectional

Cañada College Cafeteria (aka the Grove)

Redwood City CA

Mar 2–3, 2019

Grand National Teams Flight A District Finals

San Jose Bridge Center, San Jose CA

Mar 9–10, 2019

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Mar 9–10, 2019

Santa Cruz Rising Stars I/N Sectional

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Mar 16–17, 2019

Grand National Teams Flight C District Finals

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

Mar 27–31, 2019

March Into Spring Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Apr 6–7, 2019

Almond Valley Sectional

Homewood Village, Modesto CA

Apr 13–14, 2019

Marin Spring Sectional

Redwood High School, Larkspur CA

Apr 27–28, 2019

Wine Valley Sectional

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Apr 28, 2019

2018 High School Bridge Tournament Sectional

Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame CA

May 3–5, 2019

Sacramento Spring Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

May 4–5, 2019

SM Intermediate/Newcomer Spring Sectional

Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

May 6–12, 2019

Western Conference Spring Fling STaC

Local clubs

May 17–19, 2019

47th Lone Cypress – Monterey Sectional

Unit 530, Monterey Bridge Center, Marina CA

Jun 8–9, 2019

San Francisco Sectional

Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jun 22–23, 2019

East Bay Summer Sectional

Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Jun 29–30, 2019

Diablo Valley Summer Sectional

Rossmoor Event Center, Walnut Creek CA

Jul 3–7, 2019

Firecracker Supersectional

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View CA

Jul 17–28, 2019

2019 Summer North American Bridge Championships

Cosmopolitan Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas NV

Regionals

May 27–Jun 2, 2019

California Capital Regional

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,
Sacramento CA

Aug 27–Sep 2, 2019

All Western Championships

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara,
Santa Clara CA

Leuker

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room rate of \$165 plus tax per night. Believe me, this is a terrific rate for downtown San Francisco. Housing details and the tournament schedule will appear in your ACBL Bulletin.

Our local committee has been at work for over half a year already. On January 19 the eighteen-member committee met with ACBL meeting planners Mark Hudson and Montie Hamblen at the Marriott Marquis. We worked on lots of issues and fine-tuned many details of the tournament plans. We have tightened up the schedule for I/N events and will be reaching out to youth players in particular. We'll celebrate Youth Day on the first Saturday. You'll be happy to know that we've added B/C/D Pairs for mid-flight players on most days. We'll have late night snacks for your enjoyment. We're close to making our final choices for registration gifts, I/N gifts and section top prizes. We'll have various desks to assist you with your needs, including Local Information, Partnership, Registration, Section Prizes and Hospitality. Bob Garret will again provide a slide show of great District 21 bridge personalities.

Many of you have asked how you can help. Soon our Volunteer Chair Sigrid Price will be contacting your unit to ask for a certain number of volunteers to help out at the various desks. Check with your unit president to see which day of the NABC has been assigned to your unit. Look for NABC committee members for answers to your questions. They can be identified by their SF NABC name badges. The committee members are: Sandi Davis, Jean Barry,

Jackie Ortiz, Cheryl Haines, Stu Goodgold, Pam Hughes, Sharon Neff, Marion Robertson, Sigrid Price, Bob and Joan Rouse, Andy Straus, Kevin Liberg, Loren Nordlund, Tom Pajak, Janelle Van Rensselaer, Jackie Zayac and yours truly.

A couple of cautions: If at all possible, don't drive your car to downtown San Francisco. Parking rates are steep. For example, the rate at the Fifth and Mission garage across the street is \$34 per day. And at the Marriott you can at least double that rate. You'll do much better to take public transit to the site. We're less than one block from the entrance to the BART and Muni station at Market and Powell Streets. The CalTrain station is a short bus ride or cab or Uber or Lyft ride away. If you must bring a car, please arrange to carpool with your neighbors. Also remember not to leave any valuables visible when you park. Bridge clubs within a 25-mile radius are expected to be closed during the NABC.

We're looking forward to bringing you the best San Francisco NABC yet!

Hughes

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links to book future tournaments online. You can find all kinds of information there, including results from all tournaments and even Daily Bulletins every day during our regionals.

Book now to avoid disappointment! It's also not too soon to make your reservations for Santa Clara (August 27-September 2) and Reno (October 7-13).

Hope 2019 is treating you all well! Best wishes as always.

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

Team Games, Part 2: Knock-outs

by Barbara Somervill

The basic premise of Knockouts (KOs) is that you play against one team for an entire session. The teams are ranked by total masterpoints and sorted into brackets. At large events, brackets may have as many as 16 teams, but it is possible and sometimes necessary to run smaller brackets. As a novice, the thing you hope to avoid is being the lowest team in a wide-ranging bracket. On your team, the total MPs may equal 760, while the highest team in your bracket has 6800 MPs. You can see why you might be at a disadvantage in this event. The largest regional, Gatlinburg, TN, may have more than 30 brackets of Knockouts. At the recent Monterey regional, the first KO event was one bracket, while later in the week there were up to four brackets. You have a great shot for gold in Gatlinburg. At a small regional, not so much. Unfortunately, you rarely have any way of knowing how wide the bracketing will be or where your team ranks at the time you buy in.

With 24 boards a session, KOs are played in two halves of 12 boards (unless you are in a three-way match), comparing results in the middle and at the end. KO scoring is in IMPs (International Matchpoints Scale). Whether you win by 1 IMP or 100, you are the winner and move on to the next round. If you lose, you will need to play another event.

In a regular KO, you do not receive any master points if you lose the first round. If you lose the second round, you will receive match awards for surviving the first round. You must make it to the semifinals, to earn significant points, but if you do, the point reward is likely to be higher than in a pair game. If there are 10 brackets, the team that wins Bracket 1 earns more master points than the team winning bracket 10. The theory is that Bracket 1 is tougher to win, and points are awarded based on the average masterpoint holding of the teams comprising the bracket multiplied by a factor value for the number of teams in the bracket.

KO Strategies

Here are some strategy suggestions from Marty Nathan, written for the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference. You can read his entire article at http://www.mabcbridge.org/mabc350/377_KOteamStrategy.htm. In KOs the stakes are high. You will want to play with an established partner and have an established pair as the other half of your team. The main thing to remember is that a plus is great, a small minus (-50 or -100) is good, and down 4 doubled-vul is a disaster your team may not overcome. It is not a matter of one bad board as in pairs, but a cumulative result over all 24 boards.

1. If possible, **set up a team well in advance**. Play

Swiss when you can, or practice KOs at other tournaments.

2. **Do not add new conventions, change your normal play, decide to change your signals, or make any other changes to your game immediately prior to the tournament.**

3. **Arrive early, meet with your team, and talk about general approaches.** Remember that the team that wins is the one that makes the fewest mistakes and the mistakes that are the least damaging.

4. As discussed in last month's articles, always bid games if there is a possibility of game in the hand. **You definitely need to bid all vulnerable games.**

5. **Slams are questionable successes.** You stand to win a lot; you stand to lose a lot. That said, if you have a combined 32-33 points, you need to be in slam. Bid slam if it depends on a finesse AND there is a chance to make a 5th card good, or you may need a 3-3 break in a side suit. Percentage-wise, you have a better than even chance to make it.

6. **Avoid bidding slams with a suit full of holes.** For example, AJTxxx looks good for game, but not for slam going. If your suit is AKQxxx, you should be able to make 6 tricks in that suit.

7. Do not push the opponents into game. If the bidding slows at 3 H or 4 D, let it go.

8. In IMPs, there is no benefit at all to making 3NT instead of 4S or 4H. Go for the safer contract.

9. You need to **be disciplined** when bidding pre-empts. You cannot bid 2 H or 2S with Ace empty sixth or KJxxxx, especially if vul.

10. Whatever you do, **do NOT double any of the following:**

- 3 NT unless you are on lead and have AKQJxxx of a suit or a solid 5 card suit and an outside ace.

- any two-suited hand.

- a suit contract unless you have a serious stack of trump. Opponents bid 5C; you need KQJx of clubs and another trick to double.

11. You need to **compete at lower levels**. Never let the opponents steal the bid with a 1 level bid. If you have 10-12 points, you need to bid.

Compact Knockouts

Compact knockouts have similar rules, but the matches are shorter and the rules are slightly different, as four rounds must be completed in one day. Plan on playing two teams in the first session, whether you win or lose. If you lose the first round, you'll still play the second, even though you've been knocked out of the semifinals and finals. This event is offered mornings at some regionals.

2018 District 21 Goodwill and Special Presidential Goodwill Award Winners

By Ginny Wailes, Goodwill Chair



Left to right: Janelle Van Rensselaer, Kevin O'Leary, and Sigrid Price. Not pictured: Kathy Juarez, Susan Powell, and Libby Silver. Photo courtesy of Jackie Zayac

We are very pleased to report that the following outstanding contributors to bridge in our district have been selected to be our 2018 District 21 Goodwill and Special Presidential Goodwill Award winners:

Goodwill Award Winners:

Kathy Juarez, Unit 509, Santa Rosa
Kevin O'Leary, Unit 503, Palo Alto
Susan Powell, Unit 473, Reno
Sigrid Price, Unit 512, Sonoma Napa Solano
Libby Silver, Unit 502, East Bay

Special Presidential Goodwill Award Winner:

Janelle Van Rensselaer, Unit 498, San Mateo

The purpose of these awards is to recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions

and personal qualities that lead to the promotion of bridge. Examples of these contributions and qualities include time and efforts on behalf of home units, attention to growth of local membership, a friendly and positive table presence, cheerful general volunteerism, and support and development of newer and less experienced players.

Through their dedication and ongoing and varied efforts, these winners have made significant contributions to the bridge community. They are all so very deserving of this recognition, and we are most fortunate to have these hardworking, effective, and capable individuals in our district. Congratulations, and many thanks to you all!

Many thanks as well to Sandi Davis, Anne Hollingsworth, Tom Pajak, and Prudence Saunders for their fine work as members of the Goodwill Nomination Review Committee.

MONTEREY REGIONAL WINNERS

Pairs

Fri. Open (18 Tables)

1. Jianming Zhang, Union City CA; Brent Xiao, Fremont CA
2. Thomas Maccormac, Dublin Ireland; Marjorie Michelin, Laguna Woods CA
3. Ishmael Del'Monte, Las Vegas NV; Eric Leong, Oakland CA
4. Ronald Powell, Santa Clara CA; Stephen Tu, Milpitas CA
5. Rich Pavlicek Jr, Santa Clara CA; Richard Pavlicek, Fort Lauderdale FL

Mon. Open (15 Tables)

- 1A, 1B. Anant Rathi – Ankur Rathi, San Francisco, CA
- 1C. Arthur Zhou – Michael Hu, San Jose CA

Mon. Gold (12 Tables)

- 1D. Xiaoxu Ning, Carmel CA – Konny Murray, Carmel Valley, CA
- 1E. David Wong – Anjan Ghose, Palo Alto CA

Mon. Aft. Side (13 Tables)

- 1A. Henreitte Mufich – Rodney Paxton, Ashland OR
- 1B, 1C. Cecil Ward – Pauline Ward, Santa Maria CA

Mon. Aft. 299er (7 Tables)

- 1D. Debra Leggett - Douglas Leggett, Sacramento CA
- 1E, 1F. Charlie Chen, San Jose CA; Kayden Ge, Cupertino CA

Mon. Eve. Side (10 Tables)

- 1A. Jack Waller, Dana Point CA – Bruce Horiguchi, Gardena CA
- 1B, 1C. Donald Bierman, San Ramon CA – Sarah Simmerman, San Leandro CA

Tues. Morn. Side (9 Tables)

- 1A. Diana Marquardt, Del Mar CA; Valentin Kovachev, Las Vegas NV

- 1B, 1C. Donna Jett, Carmel CA; Ron Brown, Houston TX

Tues. Morn. 299er (6.5 Tables)

- 1D. Kelly O'Keefe, Salinas CA; Jerome Weiss, Carmel CA
- 1E. Suzanne Haley, Aptos CA; Paula Cole, Santa Cruz CA
- 1F. Kathy Borland - Jim Borland, San Luis Obispo CA

Tues. Daylight (26 Tables)

- 1A. Kenji Miyakuni – Ayako Miyakuni
- 1B. Philip Kuhn – Jennifer Kuhn, San Mateo CA
- 1C. James Chenu – Julie Chenu, Sacramento CA

Tues. Open (22 Tables)

- 1A. Fred Chasalow, Belmont CA; Jack Waller, Dana Point CA
- 1B. Anant Rathi - Ankur Rathi, San Francisco CA
- 1C. Daniel Sonner, Redwood City CA; Finn Kolesnik, Ventura CA

Tues. Gold (24 Tables)

- 1D. Sue Bockmann – Annie Green, Palo Alto CA
- 1E. Sherrie Barakatt, Modesto CA; Susan Dietz, San Jose CA



Sue Bockmann and Annie Green

Tues. Aft. Side (20 Tables)

- 1A. Ron Beall - Jennifer Beall, Bellingham WA
- 1B. Susan Wheeler - G Steve Wheeler, Castle Rock CO
- 1C. Ed Becker - Margaret Becker, Saratoga CA

Tues. Aft. 299er (10 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F. David Ow, Salinas CA; Steven Green, Prunedale CA

Tues. Aft. 99er (5 Tables)

- 1G, 1H, 1I. Allan McAllister - Margaret Garms, Oakland CA

Tues. Eve. Side (9 Tables)

- 1A. Mindy Foos - Michael Fleisher, Campbell CA
- 1B, 1C. Olivia Stockton - Annie Chiljian, Fresno CA

Tues. Eve. 299er (4 Tables)

- 1D. Roy Tsai - Marie Chong, San Jose CA
- 1E, 1F. Dorothy Hines - Toni Mahoney, Nipomo CA

Wed. Morn. Side (11 Tables)

- 1A, 1B, 1C. Anthony Muller, Pebble Beach CA; Joyce Newell, Monterey CA

Wed. Morn. 299er (12 Tables)

- 1D, 1E. John Wesolowski - Farol Henderson, Santa Cruz CA
- 1F. Donna Wirt - Linda Kenigsberg, Saratoga CA

Wed. Daylight (37 Tables)

- 1A. Jack Waller, Dana Point CA; Bob Etter, Elk Grove CA
- 1B, 1C. Charles Messenger, Salinas CA; Bill Cohen, Pebble Beach CA



Jack Walker and Bob Etter

Wed. Open (16 Tables)

- 1A. Edward Wojewoda, Tempe AZ; Leszek Rabięga, Watsonville CA
- 1B. Manfred Michlmayr, Orinda CA; Jack Beers, Oakland CA



Edward Wojewoda and Leszek Rabięga

Wed. Midflight (11 Tables)

- 1C. Jerry Nakamura - Terence Degan, El Dorado Hills CA
- 1D. Lynne Humphrey - Mark Humphrey, Moraga CA

Wed. Gold (40 Tables)

- 1E (tie). Sandra Sullivan - Sue Schmidt, Lincoln CA
- 1E, 1F. David Wong - Eric Byler, Palo Alto CA



Sue Schmidt and Sandra Sullivan

Wed. Aft. Side (20 Tables)

- 1A. Mindy Foos - Michael Fleisher, Campbell CA
1B, 1C. Jonni Faircrest, Los Gatos CA; Salvatore Turano Jr, Scotts Valley CA

Wed. Aft. 299er (17 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F. Sandra Hicks - Margaret Sheridan, Sonoma CA

Wed. Aft. 99er (8 Tables)

- 1G. Ronald Gross - Barbara Gross, Livermore CA
1H. Lori Chang, San Francisco CA; Beatrice Fu, Los Altos Hills CA
1I. Kayden Ge, Cupertino CA; Andrew Chen, San Jose CA

Wed. Eve. Side (10.5 Tables)

- 1A. Mindy Foos - Michael Fleisher, Campbell CA
1B, 1C. Benjamin Levy, Vancouver WA; Timothy Maloney, Palo Alto CA

Wed. Eve. 299er (10 Tables)

- 1D. Dana Daugherty, El Dorado Hills CA; Takwah Tsang, Elk Grove CA
1E. Anna Ravenscroft - Alex Martelli, Sunnyvale CA
1F. Robert Schenker - Joy Schenker, Oakland CA

Thurs. Morn. Side (14 Tables)

- 1A, 1B. Neeta Mone, Livingston NJ; Jerry Nakamura, El Dorado Hills CA
1C. Donald Bierman, San Ramon CA; Sarah Simmerman, San Leandro CA

Thurs. Morn. 299er (21 Tables)

- 1D. Albert Chu - Ingrid Hsu, Walnut Creek CA
1E, 1F. Patricia Lebeck, Normal IL; Katherine Schram, Santa Rosa CA

Thurs. Daylight (48 Tables)

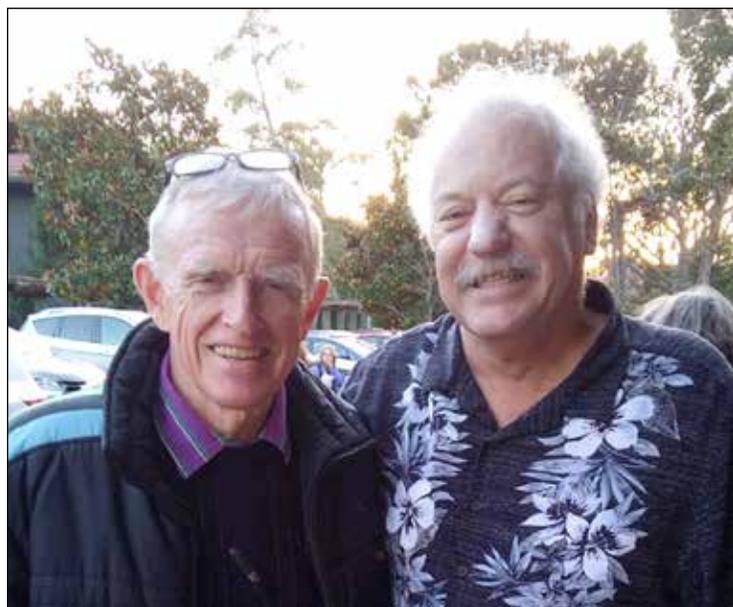
- 1A. Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine CA; Michael Mikyska, Los Angeles CA
1B. Sally Hale - Jeffrey Rogers, San Jose CA
1C. Pam Elliott - Sally Rockholt, Angels Camp CA

Thur. Open (20 Tables)

- 1A. Gary Macgregor, Portola Valley CA; Paul Kushner, So Lake Tahoe CA
1B. Stephen Castellino, Castro Valley CA; Mukund Thapa, Palo Alto CA

Thurs. Midflight (23 Tables)

- 1C, 1D. Jerry Nakamura - Terence Degan, El Dorado Hills CA



Thursday Open Pairs: Gary Macgregor and Paul Kushner

Thurs. Gold (39 Tables)

- 1E. Carolyn Farren, Larkspur CA; Paulette Moe, Ross CA
1F. Jeanine Ardourel, Menlo Park CA; Suzanne Wingate, Palo Alto CA

Thurs. Aft. Side (19 Tables)

- 1A, 1B. Ian Kirk - Deanna Birch, Portland OR
1C. Shailesh Sampat, San Jose CA; Edward Lin, Saratoga CA

Thurs. Aft. 299er (19 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F. Donna Derr - Kenneth Derr, Orinda CA

Thurs. Aft. 99er (10 Tables)

- 1G. Pam Sawyer, Oakland CA; Gail Oraftik, Piedmont CA
1H. Nancy Mulligan, Livermore CA; Marilyn Reeve, Pleasanton CA
1I. Deihleen Claffey, Pacifica CA; Susan Beech, Tiburon CA

Thurs. Eve. Side (9 Tables)

- 1A. Frank Treiber III, Toledo OH; Rhonda Monroe, Beverly Hills MI
1B, 1C. Dick Powell - Peter Weber, Fresno CA

Thurs. Eve. 299er (6 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F. Nicholas Paris - Catherine Paris, Clayton CA

Fri. Morn. Side (15 Tables)

- 1A. Mary Ose, Sacramento CA; Prudence Saunders, Palo Alto CA
1B, 1C. Joan Little - Steven Little, Los Angeles CA

Fri. Morn. 299er (21.5 Tables)

1D, 1E, 1F. Laurie Vree - Judy Duport, Santa Rosa CA

Fri. Morn. 99er (4 Tables)

1G. Pam Sawyer, Oakland CA; Gail Oraftik, Piedmont CA

1H, 1I. Minna Williams - Linda Williamson, Calistoga CA

Fri. Daylight (45 Tables)

1A. Michael Rosenberg, Sunnyvale CA; Guy Gecht, Los Altos CA

1B, 1C. Preston Kauk, Cupertino CA; Dorr Clark, Campbell CA



Michael Rosenberg and Guy Gecht



Preston Kauk and Dorr Clark

Fri. Aft. 99er (8 Tables)

1G, 1H (tie). Larry Bazinett - Gretchen Zaballos, Pleasanton CA

1G, 1H. Michele Stephens - Helen Yost, Calistoga CA

Fri. Gold (41 Tables)

1D. Stacie Bowman, Sunnyvale CA; George Welch, San Jose CA

1E. Alice Smith - Michael Chin, Palo Alto CA



Stacie Bowman and George Welch

Fri. Aft. Side (27 Tables)

1A. Teresa Boyd – Grant Robinson, Dublin CA

1B. Loretta Dimitruck, Alameda CA; Shirley Rodenborn, Oakland CA

1C. David & Theresa Gillette, Paso Robles CA

Fri. Aft. 299er (16 Tables)

1D, 1E. Gerre Buehler, Sacramento CA; Carol Buchanan, Gold River CA

1F. Susan Mehra, Pacific Grove CA; Cindy Owens, Anaheim Hills CA

Fri. Eve. Side (19 Tables)

1A, 1B. Don-Min Tsou, Cupertino CA; Henryk Szejnwald, Los Altos CA

1C. Russ Kirschenbaum - Steven Drucker, Oakland CA

Fri. Eve. 299er (9 Tables)

1D. Roger Hanlon, Sonora CA; Dwight Curry, Lincoln CA

1E. Kathy Ormseth, Saratoga CA; Nancy Caldwell, San Jose CA

1F. Marilyn Schaeffer, Benicia CA; Renee Gaines, Pinole CA

Sat. Morn. Side (11.5 Tables)

- 1A. Jennifer Beall - Ron Beall, Bellingham WA
- 1B, 1C. Michael Stambaugh, Fremont CA; Robert Hamilton, Castro Valley CA

Sat. Morn 299er (15 Tables)

- 1D, 1E. Joanne Cornbleet - Linda Kenigsberg, Saratoga CA
- 1F. Gary Effren - Barry Alhadeff, Saratoga CA

Sat. Morn 99er (4 Tables)

- 1G, 1H. Steven Nelson, Watsonville CA; Shellie Roy, Aptos CA

Sat. Open (18 Tables)

- 1A. Debbie Rosenberg - Kevin Rosenberg, Sunnyvale CA
- 1B. Kris Wong - Michael Levin, San Francisco CA
- 1C. Xin Ge - Brandon Ge, Cupertino CA

Sat. Daylight (43.5 Tables)

- 1A. Diana Marquardt, Del Mar CA; Valentin Kovachev, Las Vegas NV
- 1B. Don-Min Tsou, Cupertino CA; Henryk Szejnwald, Los Altos CA
- 1C. Charles Messenger, Salinas CA; - Maja, Marina CA



Kevin Rosenberg and Debbie Rosenberg

Sat. Gold (23.5 Tables)

- 1D. Mary Levine, Piedmont CA; Julie Burnet, Oakland CA
- 1E. Alex Martelli - Anna Ravenscroft, Sunnyvale CA

Sat. Aft. Side (15 Tables)

- 1A, 1B. David Cartwright - Carol Smith, Oakland CA
- 1C. David Fotland - Wendy Fotland, San Jose CA

Sat. Aft. 299er (11 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F. James Kaye - Glenys Kaye, Roseville CA

Sat. Aft. 99er (8 Tables)

- 1G, 1H, 1I. Minna Williams - Linda Williamson, Calistoga CA

Sat. Eve. Side (7 Tables)

- 1A, 1B, 1C. Daniel Sonner, Redwood City CA; Finn Kolesnik, Ventura CA

Sat. Eve. 299er (4 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F. Patricia Lebeck, Normal IL; Maxine Reagh, Sebastopol CA

Sun. Fast Open (33 Tables)

- 1A. Mark Itabashi, Murrieta CA; July Ratley, Redding CA
- 1B. Christopher Friday, San Francisco CA; Jeffrey Reid, San Rafael CA
- 1C. Pangjie Xu, San Jose CA; Winston Huang, Los Altos CA



Mark Itabashi and July Ratley

Teams

Mon. Aft. Swiss (18 Tables)

1A, 1B. Steve Chen - Sarah Chen, San Jose CA;
Qiang Zhang - Renjun Guo, Dublin CA

Mon. Zip Swiss

Ellis Feigenbaum - Marjorie Michelin, Laguna Woods CA; Thomas Maccormac, Dublin Ireland; Bruce Horiguchi, Gardena CA

Mon. KO Bracket 1 (15 Tables)

Joe Grue, New York NY; Sylvia Moss, Boca Raton FL; Brad Moss, Denver CO; Justin Lall, Little Elm TX; Curtis Cheek, Las Vegas NV

Tues. KO Bracket 1 (9 Tables)

JoAnna Stansby - Lew Stansby, Dublin CA; Chip Martel - Jan Martel, Davis CA; Kit Woolsey - Sally Woolsey, Kensington CA

Tues. KO Bracket 2 (9 Tables)

Robert Richardson - Candace Allen, Clinton WA; Diane Felure, Vashon WA; Joel Castoriano, Mercer Island WA

Tues. KO Bracket 3 (13 Tables)

Steve Chen - Charlie Chen, San Jose CA; Qiang Zhang - Renjun Guo - Brian Zhang, Dublin CA

Tues. Eve. Swiss

- 1A. John Clark, Simi Valley CA; Sara Carlson - William Carlson Jr, Thousand Oaks CA; Andrew Vinock, Woodland Hills CA
- 1B. Robert Karriker - A Heidi Karriker, Paso Robles CA; Judy & Ron Brown, Houston TX
- 1C. Robert Barnes, Concord CA; Ray Barber, Lafayette CA; Clare Smith, Walnut Creek CA; Jeanette Bartz, Clayton CA

Wed.-Thur. Morn. Swiss (22 Tables)

- 1A. Mitch Dunitz, Sherman Oaks CA; Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine CA; Finn Kolesnik, Ventura CA; Mark Perlmutter, San Diego CA; Edward Nagy, Danville CA; Gene Simpson, San Rafael CA
- 1B (tie). Tim Berta, Sequim WA; Sally Lynum-Lee, Port Townsend WA; Helen Rubin, Monterey CA; Trulee Ricketts, Carmel Valley CA
- 1B, 1C (tie). Douglas Halleen, Carmel CA; Barbara Alexander, Pebble Beach CA; Janice Flowers-Sonne, Seaside CA; Jean Lesieutre, Salinas CA
- 1B, 1C (tie). Annetta Patrick - Maria & Stephen Black - Charles Patrick, Santa Barbara CA

Wed. KO Bracket 1 (15 Tables)

Joe Grue, New York NY; Brad Moss, Denver CO; Justin Lall, Little Elm TX; Sylvia Moss, Boca Raton FL; Curtis Cheek, Las Vegas NV

Wed. KO Bracket 2 (15 Tables)

Ken Imboden - Ronald Baron - Norman Marks, San Jose CA; Paul Nelson, Santa Clara CA

Wed. KO Bracket 3 (16 Tables)

Patricia Hertz, Sebastopol CA; Nancy Johnson - Eleanor Wales, Santa Rosa CA; Susan Campbell, Graton CA



Patty Hertz, Sue Campbell, Eleanor Wales, and Nancy Johnson

Wed. KO Bracket 4 (14 Tables)

Kimber Shenoy - Luke Shenoy, Rio Linda CA; Donna Neff - Nancy Thompson, San Francisco CA

Wed. Eve. Swiss (29 Tables)

- 1A. Edward Nagy, Danville CA; Mitch Dunitz, Sherman Oaks CA; Gene Simpson, San Rafael CA; Mark Perlmutter, San Diego CA
- 1B. Kevin Patterson, Hayward CA; Irwin Lichtblau - Bonnie Macbride, Lafayette CA; Karen Corburn, San Ramon CA
- 1C. S Andrew Sass - Michael Stambaugh, Fremont CA; Drayton Swartz - Robert Hamilton, Castro Valley CA

Thurs. KO Bracket 1 (11 Tables)

James Slinger, Corralitos CA; Farid Assemi, Fresno CA; Leszek Rabiega, Watsonville CA; Edward Wojewoda, Tempe AZ

Thurs. KO Bracket 2 (11 Tables)

Anne Hollingsworth, Walnut Creek CA; Michael Kruley, Pleasant Hill CA; Jacqueline Zayac, Lafayette CA; Jacob Rosenberg, Moraga CA



Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth, Jacob Rosenberg, and Michael Kruley

Thurs. KO Bracket 3 (12 Tables)

Kip Kado - Buz Battle, Los Altos CA; Susan Zhang - Richard Herzog, Los Altos Hills CA

Thurs. KO Bracket 4 (16 Tables)

John Shribbs - Patricia Shribbs, Petaluma CA; Rita Schaulat - Miriam Kaegi, Novato CA



Miriam Kaegi, Rita Schaulat, John Shribbs, and Patricia Shribbs

Thurs. Eve. Swiss (20 Tables)

1A. Daniel Friedman - Linda Friedman, Orinda CA; Robert Munson, Danville CA; Bill Heid, Santa Fe NM

1B. Ying Liu, Palo Alto CA; Frank Xie, Sunnyvale CA; Bruce Luttrell, San Jose CA; Anne Harrington, San Diego CA

1C. Betsy A Bolen - Leandra Stewart - Judy Kale - Lana Stanley, Napa CA

Fri.-Sat. Morn. Swiss (30 Tables)

1A. Carole Liss, San Rafael CA; Marcus Evans, Orange CA; Thomas Maccormac, Dublin Ireland; Ellis Feigenbaum - Marjorie Michelin, Laguna Woods CA; Bruce Ferguson, Palm Springs CA

1B, 1C. Mary Lou Pease - Judy Jessick, Fresno CA; Renee Laquerriere, Clovis CA; Rhonda Hampton, Auberry CA

Fri. KO Bracket 1 (15 Tables)

Joe Grue, New York NY; Justin Lall, Little Elm TX; Curtis Cheek, Las Vegas NV; Sylvia Moss, Boca Raton FL; Brad Moss, Denver CO

Fri. KO Bracket 2 (10 Tables)

Robert Richardson - Candace Allen, Clinton WA; Diane Felure, Vashon WA; Joel Castoriano, Mercer Island WA

Fri. KO Bracket 3 (12 Tables)

Jack Uppal, Lincoln CA; Shailesh Sampat, San Jose CA; Edward Lin, Saratoga CA; Edward So, Pleasanton CA

Fri. KO Bracket 4 (12 Tables)

Cornelia Gould - Ed Gould, Incline Village NV; Jon Greenfield - Lorelei Greenfield, Hillsborough CA

Fr. Eve. Swiss (33 Tables)

1A. Jenni Carmichael - Tom Carmichael, Mill Creek WA; Chris Wiegand, Portland OR; Ari Greenberg, San Francisco CA

1B, 1C. Gary Smith - Judith Smith, Merced CA; Lorraine Bocks, Legrand CA; Sherrie Barakatt, Modesto CA

Sat. Bracket 1 Swiss (12 Tables)

Emma Kolesnik, Ventura CA; Alexander Kolesnik, Los Angeles CA; Ankur Rathi - Anant Rathi, San Francisco CA

Sat. Bracket 2 Swiss (9 Tables)

Erwin Linzner - Bob Klein, Santa Rosa CA; Jean Barry, Livermore CA; Suresh Mahajan, Del Mar CA

Sat. Bracket 3 Swiss (9 Tables)

Dawn Campbell, Portland OR; Mary Loehr, El Cajon CA; Margaret Peterson, Larkspur CA; Jim Johnsen, San Diego CA

Sat. Bracket 4 Swiss (9 Tables)

Kathy High - Dee Alexander - Pam Sands, Modesto CA; Candace Garvey, Sedona AZ

Sat. Bracket 5 Swiss (9 Tables)

Jonathan Shi - Matthew Shi - Jun Shi, Palo Alto CA; Xiaoxu Ning, Carmel CA; Songtao Zhang, San Jose CA

Sat. Bracket 6 Swiss (9 Tables)

Brenda Hatton - George & Joan Schlinkert, San Jose CA; Eunice Menezes, Cupertino CA

Sun. A/X Swiss (40 Tables)

1A. Bob Etter, Elk Grove CA; Bruce Noda, Corte Madera CA; Jessica Lai - Grant Vance, Oakland CA

1X. Brenda Pugsley - Paul Pugsley, Carson City NV; Dave Vidaver - Mary Ose, Sacramento CA

Sun. Bracket 1 (8 Tables)

Randy Ryals, Menlo Park CA; Carol Kemper, Portola Valley CA; Arthur Mirin, Castro Valley CA; Stephanie Singer, Belmont CA

Sun. Bracket 2 (8 Tables)

Jack Uppal, Lincoln CA; Edward Lin, Saratoga CA; Shailesh Sampat, San Jose CA; Edward So, Pleasanton CA

Sun. Bracket 3) (8 Tables)

Brandon Ge - Xin Ge, Cupertino CA; Rory Xiao - Bo Xiao, Fremont CA

Sun. Bracket 4 (13 Tables)

Eric Byler - David Wong - Anjan Ghose, Palo Alto CA; Omer Barnir, Sunnyvale CA
(tie) Charles Rauch - Janice Gleason, Monterey CA; Bill Cohen - Ray Mok, Pebble Beach CA



New Life Master Sue Schmidt



New Life Masters Liz and Ron Helgerson



New Life Master Tim Maloney



New Life Master Jacob Rosenberg



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In addition, your named event will appear in the full-color "Schedule and Restaurant Guide" included in the Registration Packet received by more than 5,000 players at the San Francisco NABC. Printing deadline is 10/1.

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- ♣ \$150 Naming rights for a 1-Session (Intermediate/Novice) event or a 1-session Open event (Pairs or Teams) or a 1-Session midnight Swiss or Knockout team game

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN NAMING AN EVENT,
PLEASE CONTACT JEAN BARRY, Finance Chair
Email: jbarry.d21@gmail.com, Phone: 925-209-9893**

RANK UPGRADES

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Tammy (TJ) Campbell-Lucas,
Tiburon CA, 508
Jay Cohen, San Francisco CA, 506
Matt Colen, San Francisco CA, 506
Linda Fong, Tiburon CA, 508
Wayne Goodman, Vallejo CA, 512
Gayle Ishii, Lodi CA, 510
Sandra Retter, Reno NV, 473
Dennis Rubida, Gilroy CA, 524
Coralie Wilkes, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Walter Zavoli, Palo Alto CA, 503

CLUB MASTERS

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Patrick Campbell, Reno NV, 473
David Cottam, Concord CA, 499
John Gamble, Carmel CA, 530
Irene Jacobson, Santa Clara CA, 507
Alan Lazar, Sacramento CA, 505
Lily Lee, San Francisco CA, 506
Douglas Leggett, Sacramento CA, 505
Ed Lichtig, Lafayette CA, 499

Michele Liu, Cupertino CA, 507
Annie Nielsen, Reno NV, 473
Maureen Olson, San Mateo CA, 498
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Marilyn Rickard, Stockton CA, 510
Ron Rose, Stockton CA, 510
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Patricia Irwin, Mill Valley CA, 508
Daryl Prouty, Placerville CA, 505
Carol Warren, Piedmont CA, 502
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Arif Janjua, Saratoga CA, 507
Betty Rosa, San Jose CA, 507
Patricia Rothenberg, Bel Tiburon CA, 508

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Yu Chang, Milpitas CA, 503
Roselyn Flynn, Camino CA, 505
David Geary, Moraga CA, 499
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GOLD LIFE MASTER

Patricia Hannah, San Jose CA, 507

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTERS

Tracey Bauer, San Rafael CA, 508
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HEART OF THE DISTRICT

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<u>Diablo Valley</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>Lisa Assoni</u>
<u>East Bay</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Larry Bowerman</u>
<u>Fresno</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>Laura Da Costa</u>
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By The Beer Dude

Warriors are back on track, & the rain was minimal the day of the D21 Board meeting, & the drive home (I have a place in Soquel inherited from my mom, so I go down a day or 2 ahead & crash there so to have just a 45-minute drive down vice 2 hrs+ from Richmond (& I don't have to rise so damned early!). I write on the eve of the games to determine who's in the Super Bowl; all I want to see are 2 interesting & competitive games – I have no wagering interests.

Jan 11 Unit game drew 6 tables, which E & Sandi topped overall; chasers were “RoJo” (Roseanne Smith-Joanne Cobeen) 2A, Roger Edelson-Marcia Mattoon 3A/1B, Joyce Burks-Trudie Sinclair 4A, & Narvelle Handy 2B. Feb games are Fri 1st & Wed 27th; another follows 2 days later on 3/1.

Not much in-out/rank advancement, again, but – we welcome Board Member Carrie Stoltzfus to the LM & Bronze ranks – she finally got the requisite colored points to go over (she joined before ACBL raised the bar to 500 from 300 MP's). Also welcome transfer-in Linda Rose from Inland Empire (Riverside County area) – she's shown up a few times at our club games. The other advancer is Andrew Sinclair (to 300+ Advanced NABC Master). Nobody moved away/changed Units.

At da club, Dick Walker topped Dec; NLM topper was Roger Edelson. We survived a roof leak Wed 1/16; good weather should allow EC maintenance guys to fix it before the next round. Club Championship game is Wed 13th. Finally – we rewarded our chief “setter-upper” John Love w/a holiday bonus, as we did last year. He's been an invaluable asset – getting there early to set up tables, snacks, & make the coffee – we let him play free as well – he earns it & is a helluva nice gent to boot. Beyond the 2 NAP qualifying games & STaC's we've always had, I doubt I'll run any of the ACBL-wide games that match our club days.

Now to fun stuff, starting w/my trivia question last month. The answer is “A Fine Romance”, which D21 Prez Tom Pajak shot back to me not long after DITR hit his mailbox. Turns out that he was a piano bar player in his college & low-income days in the banking world – that song was part of the repertoire. Nancy Ferguson & BER Pre Joyce Burks also got it. The other oddity is that there are very few song titles

containing “bridge(s)” – <10 by my head count, most of which are post- WWII.

I close w/a hand from our 1/16 club game that I played (filling in for E, who was on jury duty) w/ Dick Walker. I held: ♠98x ♥Qxx ♦QT9xx ♣Ax. Silent opponents. Dick opened 1♣, I bid 1♦, which he raised to 3. Your call?

I shot 3NT, figuring he had some decent major suit cards, & get the ♥2 lead. He comes down w/not quite what I expected:

♠K ♥Ax ♦AJxx ♣KJ8xxx. No ♠ lead, but I still need a lot of luck (LHO holding ♥K & ♦K; if either red suit hook loses, I'm down 2). Hurdle 1 done when I ran the lead to my Q. ♦9 came next, ducked, & RHO had one. Hurdle 2 covered – finessed ♦ again & ran the suit, tossing a low ♣ from dummy. When I cash A♣, LHO follows w/10 –if it's not from QT, I'm making 3 only. But he plays Q when I lead my last one, so I make 6. Poor LHO, who made an unfortunate (but not improper) choice holding ♠Qxxx ♥KTxx ♦Kxx ♣QT – he had no clue about the majors. A couple pairs bid 5♦, which needs the clubs to behave.

Tweak beerman1949@gmail.com to brag/gripe/suggest; Unit info & game results available 24/7 @ www.berunit497.org.

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni

Have you ever had to eat humble pie? Well, I've eaten my share at the bridge table. I don't like losing, and I don't think you do either. Losing gracefully is a misnomer. Others at the table will console you with “We all come in last sometime.” “Heck, it's only a game,” but when they lose, they become crusty crabs or worse, snapping turtles and just watch their faces turn beet red. And then they're the grumblers, like myself, who complain because we just can't get a good hand. I've even said, “I'm bored playing defense.” Or, I'm showing by hand, I mean my face, which often reflects the bidding, etc. Yes, I'm Italian, and have a hard time keeping my feelings hidden. I'm now getting a new look; no, not a face lift, but a poker face.



Faces from the past! In previous issues, I often

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included a Featured Teacher. Well, one of my first teachers, Larry Miller, is awesome. Truly, his encouragement and concern for all bridge players is expressed by his words and actions. I Love Larry—and you probably already do. Larry sometimes partners with Andy Fine, and this duo can kick your --tt. They just creamed us a few weeks back, but kindness was reflected in their great smiles. On Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. at C.C.B.C., a free bridge lesson is given prior to playing. More enticement; how about a short lesson on Monday morning in the open game, beginning 9:30 a.m., and then hit the tables.

Larry began playing bridge in college, while he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked in Cooperate Quality Management for Kaiser Aluminum. Larry took a long hiatus from bridge while he managed his own consulting business. He resumed bridge 37 years later. Yeah! He's been a bridge instructor for the past 15 years, and loves the mental challenge and the competition. Don't we all?

Like the following folks who scored BIG in the Monterey Regional. Jacob Rosenberg, Michael Kruley, Jackie Zayac, and Anne Hollingsworth won the Thursday-Friday Bracket 2 Knockout. With the win, Jacob earned his necessary gold points to make Life Master. With this same win, former Unit 499 President, Jackie Zayac became a Silver Life Master, and Former Unit 499 President and current Board Director, Anne Hollingsworth, became a Ruby Life Master.

There were lots of others who were awarded mega points, to numerous to mention. Congratulations to all! Ciao Bella

East Bay

By Larry Bowerman

For most of you, the big event in January was the Monterey Regional during the first week of 2019. In case you need some bridge inspiration for the coming year, look no further than to Grant Vance, Jessica Lai and Crispin Barrere. All three began the new year with a strong start at Monterey. Grant and Jessica won the Open Swiss Teams event on the last day by defeating several pro teams and garnering 30 masterpoints for their efforts. They also did well in other events to earn a total of 67.3 masterpoints.

Crispin did well enough in several events to earn 80.8 masterpoints. Congratulations to each of you!

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, there will be regularly scheduled Unit 502 Games on Sunday, February 3 and Sunday, February 17 at the EBCBC. The free lunch will be served at about 12:30 pm, and the games will begin at 1:00 pm.

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 Games, there will be EBCBC Sunday games. In February the only one of these games will take place on Sunday, February 24. The game begins at 1:00 pm, and a light lunch will be served before the game. There won't be a usual Sunday game on February 10 because the East Bay Community Bridge Center is hosting the Grand National Teams Open Championship Flight District Finals on February 9 and 10 beginning at 12 noon each day. Best of luck if you are fortunate enough to be playing in these Finals!

Monday, February 4 is a Club Championship Game. Wednesday, February 20 is the ACBL – Wide Charity Game beginning at 1:00 pm; entry fees will be \$9 for this game.

For those in search of Silver Points, there is a local Sectional in February: San Mateo on February 23 and 24. Please visit the District 21 Website for further details on sectional and regional tournaments.

The January 6 unit game was relatively small (7.5 tables) due to rainy weather and conflict with the last day of the Monterey Regional. Gunnar Niemi and Richard Walker finished first, Robert Ipswitch and Kathryn Von Dohre second, Bonnie Macbride, Sidney Mar third, Jim and Pat Leary fourth, and Carol Griffin and Carol Penskar tied for fifth with Larry Bowerman and Libby Silver. The first two pairs had games of 64.15% and 63.19%, respectively. The next four pairs games ranged from 52.0% to 54.9%

The January 20 unit game took place on another rainy day, but the attendance was much better (14 tables). Bonnie Macbride and Sidney Mar took first place, Jessica Lai and Grant Vance second place, Ravi Bhalla and Cathleen Otvos third place, Pat Leary and Nick Wiebe fourth place, and Margaret Rourke and Nadine Levine fifth place. All five pairs had games between 58.5% and 62.5%.

Welcome to new members Amy Hansen and Avigail Lev, and to Charles Swart who has transferred into Unit 502! When you see them, please introduce

yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following players on their recent rank advancements: Kennedy Richardson – Junior Master; Bettina Brill, Madelaine Georgette and Toni King - Club Master; Lili Bassett and Margaret Tam – NABC Master; Charles Tonelli – Silver Life Master; and Gene Kuehneman – Sapphire Life Master. When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them on their advancements. Kudos to each of you, and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

I'm writing the March column, so please contact me (at lmjtbow@pacbell.net) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

It's February, which means it is time for the Fresno Winter Sectional! Once again, we are taking advantage of the Presidents Day weekend (15-18) to have a Friday to Monday sectional. Make your plans to support our unit and have some fun at the same time by joining us for one or more sessions. Need a partner or another pair for the team game? Contact our partnership chair, Mary Lou Pease (559-288-2340 or marlou121@comcast.net).

The Unit 522 Christmas Party and end-of-the-year meeting was a little earlier than normal as it occurred on December 2 (a week earlier than normal). We may want to continue to have it that early as we had a huge turnout. We had 11 ½ tables in the Open game and 4 tables in the 299er game.

The winners for the Open game were N/S: Robert Durbrow & Rose Boot and E/W: Laura Da Costa & Ray April (overall winners). In the 99er game, the winners were Doris Myers & Judy Geary. The unit board provided the lunch with the main dish prepared and served by Jackie Finn & Deb Petersen; a wonderful ham.

Also, at the Christmas Party, our Distinguished Service Award was given out. This year's recipient was Don Austin who has worked tirelessly as treasurer for the past few years, and among other accomplishments, negotiated a new contract for the rental of the Shaw clubhouse.

We had quite a few pairs and individuals who ended the year with 70% games. Oakhurst had just

one pair, Karen McCartin & Claire Molnar, 71.5% in the Monday morning Open game on 12/31. In Madera, Barbara Diebert & Virginia Hailey, 73.31% in the Wednesday evening game on 12/12. The remaining ones occurred in the Fresno clubhouse. In the aforementioned Christmas party on 12/2, Ray April & Laura Da Costa, 71.09% on the Open side while Doris Myers & Judy Geary, 74.31% in the 299er game. The following week (12/9), Richard Meffley & Bob Cross, 73% in the Sunday Open game.

In the Tuesday evening lesson/99er game on 12/18, Clint Hudson & Barbara Gaudin, 73.33%. Lastly, there were two Individual Open games on Friday evenings in December, on 12/14, Bob Cross won with a 71.43% and on 12/28, William Glass won with 73.81%.

Congratulations to Curtis Reeves who reached the rank of Gold life master (2500 masterpoints).

See you at the Sectional!

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

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.

Marin

By Gail Haar

Kathryne Kinsey and Susan Weinberg have just joined our Unit. Be sure to greet them warmly when you meet them at the table. Congratulations to our members who have advanced a rank – Judy Berg, David Berger, Michael Calder, Georgianna Farren & Jerald Young (Junior Master); Jean Buckley, Nancy Levinson & Carol Ross (Club Master); Mimi Levison (Life Master); Mimi Levison, Martha Marriott & Donald Tusel (Bronze Life Master); Susan Pfeister (Silver Life Master); Arti Bhargava (Sapphire Life Master).



Big games this month include Anne Stein & Jim Griffin (73.92% at Terra Linda); Peggy Tatro & Joan Ehmann (72.38% at Fuldek); Diane Williams & partner (70% at Terra Linda); and Larry Quenzer & Peter Sager 70% at Terra Linda.

Calling all Mentees: It's a New Year, so why not take the step and reach out to be Mentored by someone more knowledgeable than you? Someone really wanting to help you who has lots of experience to draw on. If you are an intermediate player on a plateau, a Mentor can help get you that "nudge." If you are taking/took one of the classes taught by one of our fine teachers, a Mentor can help you put your new learnings to work. It won't cost you one extra penny, because we pay the Mentor's card fees! Plus, you can do it up to eight times on your journey to Life Master! To Request A Mentor: <http://marinbridge.com/mentee/>. To Learn about our unit's Mentoring Program: http://marinbridge.com/pdf_Files/ACBL.Unit508.MentoringFlyer.2018-05.pdf.

Calling all Mentors: Okay, so we've made some promises that we need your help keeping. We are counting on you that would like to give a little back to our Bridge Community by signing up to Mentor someone. We can connect you to that right player that could benefit from your experience. It may be with an intermediate player wanting to further advance, or a newer player in/from a class by one of our fine teachers. We'll do the pre-screening and then you can meet the Mentee and decide if there's a fit. Remember navigating the waters when you were "coming up" and how foreign it felt at times? Please jump in and help. To Volunteer To Mentor: <http://marinbridge.com/mentor/>.

marinbridge.com/mentor/.

The final figures are in and the annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser for Homeward Bound of Marin raised \$22,885. Thanks to David Smith, our Platinum Life Master Member and 2x "Matcher" of our donations, our Unit upped the HBOFM coffers by \$68,655. More than enough to take care of 4+ people for a whole year!

Be sure to mark your calendar in big red letters for the annual Marin Sectional on April 13 & 14 in the Redwood High School Gym in Larkspur. See the flyer at marinbridge.com. Just click on the "sectional" link.

With the new electronic format of the unit columns, we're able to easily add photographs. If you have a digital picture taken at a club event that you want to share, just send it along. My contact information is in the Unit Directory (available for a mere \$2 from the club directors) or send them to marinunit508@gmail.com to my attention!

A final word from the always fun Rueful Rabbit: People shouldn't be allowed to use conventions they don't understand. It's not fair to the opponents.

Modesto/Merced/Sonora

By Gail Vick

Galen Neptune & Frank Frohman took 1st in both A & B with 65.28% to finish out the second half of December, with Galen Neptune & Libby Longstreth taking 1st in C Division at 57.87%. Galen made a Trifecta in bridge at the end of December!



The final game of December for the beginning / intermediate group was won by Barb Page & Joyce Rudesill in A Division at 62.50%, followed by Terry Sciabica & Barbara Bogart for 1st in B with 52.78%.

Pete and Jan took an extended holiday, and left the club in the very capable and efficient hands of Barb Page who took the helm while they were absent. Books she knows backwards and forwards, especially bridge playing and correct protocols!

During the first half of January, High Games winning 1st in A Division were Jan Mastenbrook & Chris Brown with 67.06%, Ray Adams & Sheela Wani with 65.19%, and Jackie & Roland Wilson

with 64.81%. Pamela & John Mayne finished 1st at 59.26% in B, and Raj Modi & Sheela Wani finished 1st in C with 55.56%. In the beginning/intermediate group, Barbara Barnewolt & Betty Beard were 1st in A & B with 63.10%, and Sharon & Neil Von Tersch were 1st in C with 59.52%. In the once a month Tuesday beginner's duplicate group, Marilyn Tallent & Peter Hoy won 1st across the board A, B, C with 65%, and Nedra Voorhees & Jeanne Lamke were 2nd across the board in A, B, C.

At the unit game in January, Ray Adams & Galen Neptune were 1st overall in A at 60.32%, with Libby Longstreth & Chris Barkley taking 1st overall in both B & C Divisions at 56.55%. Libby made another beautiful gourmet blueberry cake!

Many of our players played in the Monterey Regional. Winning masterpoints were: Pat Gallo 12.32, Dee Heller 12.32, Mike Saeler 11.72, Kathy High 11.71, Dee Alexander 11.71, Pam Sands 11.71, Sherrie Barakatt 10.69, Bruce Ruskin 9.79, Lorraine Bocks 8.20, Judy Remmers 7.11, Connie Arnold 7.11, Barb Page 6.93, Gail Vick 6.93, Trelle Uhl 4.29, Ralph Jungwirth 4.29, Lorna Crooks 3.56, Joyce Rudesill 3.56, Vickie MacClyment 3.32, Cindy Rogers 3.32.

Monterey

By Mary Block

Our talented and diligent newsletter editor, Scott Hanham, has scooped your reporter this month with the complete results of the Clambake. If are reading this, you can go to the unit website and find the newsletter there. The top four master point winners were Charles Messenger, Maja, Bill Cohen, and Xiaoxu Ning, all earning 20+ master points. The newsletter also contains a wealth of other information about the accomplishments of our members.

Thanks to all those who volunteered to help at the Hospitality table during the tournament; they are also listed in the newsletter. Donna Jett always does a wonderful job of organizing the volunteer to cover the necessary shifts.

Lyde's annual New Year's Eve party this year was held on the eve of the eve, because of the tournament's starting on December 31. The overall winners at the event were Donna Jett and Phyllis Sokol.

Mark your calendars now for the annual Brad Dow Appreciation Game on Sunday, March 17. St. Patrick's Day garb optional. This is a unit game, so extra points.

The unit welcomes new member Mary Layman. And says good-bye to one of the oldest members, Bill Putnam, who has relocated to Arkansas, the Western Arkansas Unit. Bill served as an officer of both the unit and the district and directed the Tuesday evening game for many years.

Rank changes this month include Ellie Satow and Noor Nooria to Junior Master, Roger Barry to Club Master, and Neville Kirby to Sectional Master. Marian Keyworth and Charles Rauch are now NABC Masters. Lauren Upson has become a Ruby Life Master.

The Tuesday evening game at the Bridge Center is now starting at 6:30 p.m. to give you an earlier evening. Please call Janet Hedlund at 422-6607 to reserve your spot. New players and those under 99 MP may play for \$5.00.

It is with sadness that I report that the unit has lost another valued member. Suzanne Snyder passed away after a short illness. She had been playing for many years in the Non-Life Master games.

The Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation continues to develop potential new members to the unit through Easybridge! classes for beginning players, those who wish to learn the game, and review of the game for those who haven't played in many years. The next 8-lesson series will begin on February 21 from 4:30-6:30. It's just a \$50.00 tax-deductible donation and includes refreshments. If you know of anyone who would like to learn or refresh their knowledge, please contact Doug Halleen at 831-917-2502 or Doug@Doughalleen.com.

The other primary goal of the Foundation is to raise and accumulate funds to prepare for the future relocation of our Bridge Center. The need for relocation is a fact, not just a fear. All donations are appreciated and are tax deductible, as the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization. Please keep the Foundation in mind as you plan or revise your estate and tax planning.

For those newer players, supervised 'Shuffle & Play' is available from 2:30-4:30 each Thursday. Hetty Eddy and Charlotte Wilson are there to oversee and assist players. This is a great opportunity for the newer players to become familiar with bidding and

play in a casual atmosphere. This is valuable for both new and returning players and especially for social bridge players who may be experienced at bridge, but need some practice with the bidding boxes and some of the other features unique to duplicate. No partner is required.

We are www.montereybridgeclub.com (831)384-7800. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Pat McLaughlin who was truly a great guy and a credit to the game of bridge. Pat played the game as it should be played. He was always welcoming players to his table and he never criticized his partners or the opponents. To him, it was not whether you won or lost, but how you played the game which is how it should be. He will be sorely missed by the entire unit including 101-year-old Doris Leckie whom he drove to the game twice a week. Rest in peace Pat!



There must have been about 40 players from our unit at the Monterey Regional and it was great fun. As a group, we didn't fare as well as we usually do but a lot of dinners and beverages made up for that. The highlight was when Renate Bialy made Life Master. Renate has persevered over the years and it was a well earned result playing with someone she picked up at the partnership desk. Congratulations Renate!

Others who did well were John & Patty Shribbs who earned 22 points by winning a knockout and finishing second in C in a Swiss team event. It's not easy for a C team to get 22 points in a tournament so hats off to them! Barbara Lemme, Sheila Malinowski, & Sue Vogtlin came in second in a knockout with Sue picking up 25 points overall. Sandy Hicks & Marge Sheridan came in first overall in a 299 game and Roger Bohl & Helen Herbaugh were third in a Gold Rush game. Our best result was Friday when we took a drive around the Pacific Grove shoreline and went to a State park.

The December STaC results were more in tune

with our games with at least 1000 pairs participating each afternoon and Don Powell & Phil Shoemaker came in 5th overall and Clyde & Kathleen Smith were 16th in another game. Dennis Sturdevant & Brooke Farkas were first overall in the 499er game with a 72% game for the second time in three years! Very impressive! Renate Bialy & Frank Thompson were third in that game. Chandler Stauffer & Wilma Powell came in second in the Tuesday night game.

Fewer club games were played in December because of the Holidays. In Sonoma, the big news was the 82% game turned in by Tom Jacobson & Sigrid Price! Other winners were Shelly Dunietz & Lynn Blumenthal, Jim & Frances O'Brien, and Mark Hersko & Mary Omodt who won twice.

Gerry Fox & Molly Johnston, Anita Pensler & Richard Tebay, Chris Larson & Jerome Fenton, and Clyde & Kathleen Smith were victorious in Napa with John Kardach & Lois Lourie winning the Holiday party Unit game. Joyce Vass & Chandler Stauffer won the lone Rio Vista game with a nice 71% game.

The brooms were out in the 499er game as Dennis Sturdevant & Brooke Farkas swept the three games that included a tie with Dick Hale & Willa Mundell.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

In Unit 503 News: Our calendar is so busy that we have time for only one unit Game this month, a pairs event on Saturday, February 2. But no worries, we'll be back to two games in March, pairs 3/9 and Swiss Teams 3/10. Lunch at 11:30; games at noon. Also in the news, by popular demand the Thursday game (now Will/John combined) will start at 11:30, so we can miss the heaviest commute traffic afterwards. Thank you to all who cooperated to make this happen. Don't forget to make (or cancel) your reservation.



We have a number of classes beginning in February. Do you know someone who would like to learn our great game? If yes, Kathy Harper's Beginning Bridge on Tuesday mornings provides a fine foundation, with a lesson plus practice. Also on Tuesday mornings is Supervised Play. Then on

Thursday mornings, Kathy offers Deadly Defense, covering leads, signals and discards.

Don't miss our free lectures on Tuesday mornings. On February 6 Lynn Yokel will teach "Six hands." Then on February 26, Chuck Lane will tackle "Leads." Gosh, such a huge topic and one I always need to learn about. And I am looking forward to learning "Kickback Slam Bidding" later this spring.

Our member Sharon Schafer had fun finishing her Life Master on a cross-Atlantic cruise with Larry Cohen. In addition, Max Shireson and Irene Hashfield became Bronze Life Masters, Freya Charney and Gloria Leitstein became Ruby Life Masters, and Geeske Joel reached the 7500 mp rank of Emerald Life Master. Congratulations!



Sharon Schafer with Larry Cohen

The results of the ACBL masterpoint "races" for 2018 are now available at: <https://web3.acbl.org/mpraces/?year=2018&race=YOU>. Several of our Silicon Valley youth are right up there in the standings for District 21. In the youth category, ten of the top ten spots are held by SiVY players, and Stephanie Youngquist and Brent Xiao placed overall in the ACBL rankings. Stella Q. Wan placed first in the District 21 50-100 mp category. It is such a pleasure to meet up with our youth players at the club and unit games. Such good sports as well as fine players. Youth players, check out the SiVY website and hit one of the free pizza parties; next one is on February 3. Also, sign-ups are open for summer camp for kids grades 5-10, coming June 24-

28. <http://www.siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org>

We had a fun time in Monterey...did you? In the afternoon side pairs we were playing against a local director (call him MAR) and his partner, when we had a director call. This was the second that day for our opponents, and MAR joked that he was close to his limit. Then he recalled a time when he had presided over 5 director calls by one pair in one hand! First there was a bid out of turn, followed by another bid when required to pass, then a lead out of turn followed by a lead in violation of a lead restriction, and finally an established revoke. What a merry time that must have been. Have an interesting story about bridge? Send it to me at: cchaney@sfsu.edu.

Reno

By Judy Robyns

We have started the new year with a new board. There are two new members on the board and one re-election. Jill Wallace was re-elected. She will serve as president this year. Sandy Powell will serve as vice president. Fred Kelly will continue as secretary and Mark Lundblad as treasurer. Jackie Mall, a new member, will be social chairman. Judy Robyns, also new to the board, will write for this publication and also assist Ruth Swain with tournaments. Our first project to complete will be purchasing some new tables and chairs for the club. This is a task that was started last year.

Diane Todd was our representative to the district 21 board meeting in Monterey. She reported that one of our Reno members, Susan Powell, received the Good Will Award from the district for 2018. Susan worked very hard in 2018 for our club. She put in a lot of time and effort for the Longest Day charity. She is an enthusiast spokesman for Reno bridge. Also Diane reported that it was decided that all two session events where gold points are awarded at the Reno/Sparks regional level will be scheduled at 10:00 and 3:00.

New achievements at our club this month: Sid Siddall achieved Sectional Master.

High games in December: Patricia Kleckner and Steven Merritt, 68.75% 299er; Gilbert Ramirez and Charlotte Falk, 68.75%

We had a Reno Youth Bridge winter tournament on December 8. The top finishers were: Alex Mustard

and Daphne Quint, 68.75%; Trinity Harris and Aja Franchi, 65.18%; Margaret Pope and Shani Mustard, 58.93%.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Our always wonderful San Francisco Winter Sectional in January was, as always, wonderful! Many Unit 506ers distinguished themselves. Congrats to our hometown winners: Gary Mankin and Neil Vaz, Bracket 5 Swiss winners; Brigitte Sandquist/Kirsten Beda, 1st strats B and C, Sunday morning side pairs; Pamela Mann, Sunday afternoon side pairs winner; Vicki Klapper/Leila Marcus, 1st strat B, Saturday 499er pairs; Jeff Frank/Ellen Salwen, Saturday afternoon newcomer pairs winners; Andrew Straus/Mark Micheli, Saturday morning side pairs winners, 70%!; Lynn Norris/Dolores Mackinnon, Saturday afternoon side pairs winners. Well played, all!

Welcome to new Unit 506 members Elizabeth Boyd, Susan Leibel, and Robert Saken; and transfers Denny Arar (San Mateo), Matt Colin (New Jersey); and Fareday Hemingway (Marin). Say hello and welcome to these new players when you meet them at the table.

Kudos to our masterpoint ladder climbers: new Junior Master Peggy Torpey; Club Master Kurt Wootton; Sectional Master Diana Blank; Advanced NABC Masters Chris Chen and Mike Held. Good going!

Unit 506's very popular unit game schedule kicks off on Groundhog Day, February 2. If you see your shadow, will that mean another six weeks of misguessed fitnesses? Lesson at 10:45, light lunch is served at 11:15, and game time is noon. The unit now hosts (attendance permitting) three separate sections; open, 499er, and 99er. Come one come all! All unit games are at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough St. at Geary, and all are welcome. Check the unit website at www.unit506.org for more dates and information.

We sadly say goodbye to Maury Farrington, who passed away in January. Maury was one of the early members of QuickTricks and was a stalwart of the club for nearly 40 years. He was a kind, fun and witty

presence at the table and a great supporter of QT's annual pro/am. He will be missed. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Hearts and flowers, champagne and chocolate—nothing's too good for your bridge partner on Valentine's Day!

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

In January we noted the outstanding award earned by our own Mark Sorenson, the Aileen Osofsky National Goodwill Award.

Now we have another achievement for our unit: our in-coming President, Janelle Van Rensselaer was named the winner of the Special Presidential Goodwill Award which was presented at the Monterey Clambake District 21 meeting. Janelle's dedication and ongoing efforts have made significant contributions to the bridge community. We are most fortunate to have Janelle in our unit! Congratulations, Janelle!

In January one of our most revered players marked another birthday milestone. Sal Ignoffo celebrated his 102nd birthday at a Barometer Game held in his honor at the Bayshore Bridge Club. What a testament to the ageless nature of this game! One can play from any age into the century mark. Sal never misses a slam opportunity. Keep it up and congratulations, Sal. The overall winners at that game were: 1st, Eleanor Battaglia and Sharon Legallet; 2d, Kris Tejwani and Seva Sokolov; 3d, Roger Dewes and Ted Richmond. But the real winner is Sal!

February brings our Winter Sectional to be held February 23 and 24 at Canada College. If you've never attended this terrific event, this is the year to do so. With events for players at all levels, the venue is consistently cited by players as a great one for all day play. After several years of managing this tournament, Marc Renson has handed the reins over to Bob Gleason who promises to continue the excellent work of previous years. Of special interest to newer players is the Saturday competition for 0-100 Masterpoint players: the Art Weinstein Trophy event. Take a look at the flyer on our Unit 498 website and make your plans now. Don't be left out.

Opportunities to introduce new players to the fun and challenge of duplicate abound in our unit.

Jennifer Kuhn has another Easybridge! session Thursdays at 9:30 at Fattoria e Mare; check www.peninsuladbc.com/Easybridge for details.

Carol Knowles directs a 0-49 game at Bayshore Bridge Club on Thursdays at 9:15, and Jennifer has added a 0-49 Section to her Thursday afternoon game at 12:30. Our unit games now feature a special rookie section for 0-20 players. Special thanks go to Debbie Carey who has been instrumental in fostering these players and encouraging their unit game participation.

Unit Mentor/Mentee Games commenced on January 31 at Fattoria. The next sessions will follow on February 28 and March 28. Contact Jennifer Kuhn at jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com for information. Similarly, Ted Richmond coordinates a Mentor game at Bayshore Bridge Club; information can be obtained by e-mail to tedteddyr@att.net.

And never overlook the opportunities within our unit for Open Game players. Virtually every day of the week at one or more of our club locations (Bayshore Bridge Club, San Mateo Bridge Center and Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Center), and at various times of the day (morning, afternoon and evening) you can find Open Games scheduled.

And don't overlook our unit games which feature open, limited and rookie sections! Check the ACBL Unit 498 website for specific details. Come out and play!

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Jane Bagley, Xinguo Fang, Susan Foley, Margaret Goldsmith, Lei Jun, Barbara Kubota, Carolyn Meiswinkel, Holly Roslow, and Gary Schaezlein. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Lucy Ballard, Leslie Braker, Rise Cherin, Deihleen Claffey, Xinguo Fang, Lei Jun, and David Platshon; to Club Master, Dr. Ford Tamer; to Sectional Master, Joanne Neubauer; and to Bronze Life Master, Danna Sorenson.

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Here's a shout-out to all 499er Pairs. It's time to make plans for the Rising Stars Sectional. It will be Saturday and Sunday, March 9 & 10 at the Mid County Senior Center in Capitola. Tournament Co-

Chairs, Carol Cowen and Gina Brown are planning a terrific event and if you need a partner, contact John Wesolowski.

Saturday offers two sessions each for pairs with 0-100 points or 0-500 points. Pairs may play in either or both sessions (10 am and 2:30 pm). There will be a free bridge lesson by Life Master, Ken Martin, between sessions.



Sunday will have a single session Stratified Newcomer Pairs game (0-100 points) or you may play 2 sessions of Stratified Swiss Teams with a short lunch break.

Silver points will be awarded for all events both days. For complete information, follow the link on our website.

Our members gave a notable showing at the Monterey Clambake Regional. Scoring firsts were: John Wesolowski & Farol Henderson; Jonni Faircrest & Sal Turano; Steve Nelson & Shellie Roy; Jim Slinger & Les Rabiega; and Suzanne Haley & Paula Cole. Scoring in the top 20% for the tournament were: Les Rabiega, Jim Slinger, Peter Gelfand, Susan Slinger, Carol Avenmarg, and Ken Gamble.

Milestones this month were attained by: Kristin Smith, NABC Master; Angie Millslagle, Sectional Master; Marilyn Calciano, Club Master; and April Johnston, Club Master.

Welcome to new member Karen Klimowski who has transferred her existing membership to our unit.

In our ongoing effort to encourage and educate new players, there are two NEW beginner classes now being offered. There is a Wednesday morning Beginning Bridge game taught by Nancy Wainer. There is also a Wednesday evening Beginning Bridge game taught by Bette Harken. Sign up is needed because space is limited. Nancy is also offering a one-time Advanced Beginner class on Saturday, February 2.

In addition to these new classes, ongoing lessons are available: "Bid/Play with Ken Gamble" on Mondays; "Mentoring Group" with Sydney Jane Reuben on Tuesdays; and "Expert at Your Elbow" with Ken Gamble on Fridays.

Unit 550 offers games most days and several evenings. Open Pairs games are Monday, Tuesday (lunch available for purchase), Wednesday and Friday daytimes and Thursday evenings. 199er

Pairs are on Monday evenings (lesson preceding). 749er Pairs are on Tuesday evening and Thursday morning (lesson proceeding, bring lunch). 99er Pairs are on Wednesday evening (lesson preceding). Sunday afternoon is a NLM or Mentor game (lesson preceding). You should check the website for specific times for all games and lessons.

Our unit game will be on February 9 at 10 am. Be sure to bring your own lunch.

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. Don't forget to visit our Facebook page. To see the Unit 550 schedule (Game Calendar), to get information on our Mentor Program, or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

Wow, Unit 509 had a powerful contingent at the Monterey Clambake. Among the many winners, special mention is deserved by Erwin Linzner and Bob Klein who teamed with Jean Barry and Suresh Mahajan to take first in the Cypress Bracketed Swiss Teams for 22.85 gold; Patricia Hertz, Nancy Johnson, Susan Campbell, and Eleanor Wales who took first in the Rory McIlroy Bracketed KOs for 17.25 gold and then came in 3/4 in Ernie Els Bracketed KOs for 6.08 gold; John and Patricia Shribbs who teamed with Rita Schaulat and Miriam Kaegi to win the John Steinbeck Bracketed KOs for 12.37 gold/red points. Several of our newer players ranked 1st in one or more of their events: Laurie Vree, Judy Duport, Katherine Schram, Enid Barnes, and Maxine Reagh. I am so impressed!

Other winners include Barbara Simon, Barry Samuel, Carolyn Zocchi, Conrad Larkin, David Pankratz, Evelyn Holtz, Jacqueline Ortiz, Jennifer Jones, Jock Rader, Kate Hill, Kathy Venton, Lynn Blumenthal, Muthiah Ramanathan, Nancy Gunn, Patricia Dunbar, Peter Lit, Phyllis Rader, Sara Rothmuller, Shelly Dunietz, and Wayne Kaneko.

The Bridge Gallery opened 2019 with its 23rd anniversary celebration featuring the inestimable Jackie Ortiz' fabulous hors d'oeuvres. With 14 tables in play, the first winners of the year were N/S Karen Weissberg and Cathy Netz (A, B, and C) and

E/W Rose Marie Johnson and Ann Schneider (A, B). What a great way to start the year!

The Bridge Gallery is bringing back Sylvia Shi to teach a second class on February 10, from 10:30 to 12:30 at the Bridge Gallery, \$20 prepaid, \$25 at the door. This class will improve your decision making when choosing to raise one more time, from the 2 to 3 level and from the 4 to 5 level. Sylvia's earlier class last August about signaling was a smashing success. The remarkable thing about her is that Sylvia is a seven-time NABC title holder as well as a World Gold Medal winner AND she has only been playing since 2011! Sylvia played to a packed house last August of over 40 people. We are very pleased to have her return for another class. See <http://santarosabridge.com> for more information. A unit game will follow the class at 1 p.m.

The Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa started three courses in January that will continue in February. On Tuesday mornings through February 12, from 9:30 - 11:30, Kate Hill will continue her new course, All About the Minors. The remaining sessions are titled Unusual Two Notrump (2/5) and Imaginative Ways to Use the Minors (2/12). Cost is \$15 for a single session. Two sessions of Bridge Basics I – Beginner Bridge Class are being offered, one on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 by Kathy Venton and the other on Thursday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 by Kathy Juarez. If you start in February, you will have missed one session. This course covers opening bids and responses and planning to play a hand in both no trump and suit contracts. Single sessions are \$15; repeats, \$5 per session. Contact the Bridge Gallery at <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/> if you would like to join one of the 3 classes that started in January.

John Shribbs, a self professed nerd and proud of it, will be introducing a new method for teaching beginning bridge for working adults and students savvy with smartphones and computers starting February 6. Though the method is new to the US, China has 40,000 students learning bridge this way. The class will be using a computer lab at the Petaluma Adult School on Wednesday nights. The eight lessons cost \$69 which includes Audrey Grant's book and bidding guide. Students start with a smartphone app for trick taking bridge (Whist), move on to Minibridge on a smartpone, next to bidding bridge hands with a computer partner, then

social bridge, and finally duplicate style. Everyone plays every hand, learning through practice. Contact John Shribbs, jshribbs@comcast.net, for more information.

Mark your calendars! Line up your favorite partner and come to Unit 509's Spring Sectional scheduled March 9 and 10 at Odd Fellows Hall in Santa Rosa. The Wine Country hills will be a brilliant green as always in the spring. Sandwiches will be for sale, and snacks will abound.

There was only one 70%+ game in our clubs since the last Diamond in the Ruff. At the Bridge Gallery, Kathy Juarez and Harley Conner scored 70.0% on January 9.

Five players moved up in rank in December. Congratulations to new Junior Master Ginna H Zoellner; new Sectional Masters Deborah McLaughlin and Donna Vaiano; new Ruby Life Master Larry Spanier; and new Sapphire Life Master Lynn Blumenthal.

The Petaluma Bridge Club will be closed February 9 so that many of us can attend Pat McLaughlin's memorial. For more information, see <http://www.petalumabridgeclub.com/2019/01/19/pat-mclaughlins-memorial-service/>.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

I'd like to be announcing that Unit 507 has found a new location for our sectionals to replace West Valley College and has scheduled a spring sectional, but unfortunately that would be false. The Unit Board continues to look for an available, affordable location, and would appreciate help.

Over the winter holidays there are usually fewer tournaments. But several unit members competed successfully in the Monterey regional. In the premier two-session open pair games, Stephen Tu placed 4th and Rich Pavlicek Jr. placed 5th after having a section top. Kevin Rosenberg comfortably won a stratified pairs game playing with his mother, a day after his father Michael won another stratified pairs game.

Topping their stratifications in two-session open pair games were Arthur Zhou, Preston Kauk & Dorr



Clark, Sally Hale & Jeffrey Rogers, Xin & Brandon Ge, and Pangjie Xu. Section tops went to Steve Burnham, Panette Talia & Ray Yuenger, Robert Allen, Lynn Shannon (twice), Rich Pavlicek Jr., Ken Rosenfeld & Joel Koransky, Bruce Luttrell, and Tony Trebaol.

Brenna Wundram had a strat top in a two-session midflight pairs, while Kathy & Rick Jasper had a section top. Stacie Bowman & George Welch prevailed in two-session gold rush pairs, while Susan Dietz had a strat top. Winning single-session limited pairs games were Roy Tsai & Marie Chong and Joanne Cornbleet & Linda Kenigsberg.

Earning strat tops in limited pairs games were Charlie Chen & Kayden Ge, Kathy Ormseth & Nancy Caldwell, Gary Effren & Barry Alhadeff, Kayden Ge & Andrew Chen, and Donna Wirt & Linda Kenigsberg. Sections tops went to Cindy Tolliver (twice) and Donna Wirt & Joanne Cornbleet.

In team events, Steve and Sarah Chen's team won a Swiss event. Brandon & Xin Ge's team had a strat top. Prevailing in their Swiss brackets were George & Joan Schlinkert; Songtao Zhang; Brandon & Xin Ge; and Edward Lin & Shailesh Sampat.

Winning their knockouts were Steve and Charlie Chen; Ken Imboden, Ronald Baron, Paul Nelson & Norman Marks; and Shailesh Sampat & Edward Lin.

At the San Francisco Sectional, Kevin Rosenberg won the two-session open pairs game. Chung Lau had a strat top, while Leila Sink had a section top. Mike Cailean's team won the top Swiss bracket, while Kevin's team with Will Watson was second.

I'm unable to locate the results of the recent Unit 503 Non-Life Master sectional and will have to report them in a subsequent column.

Congratulations to Unit 507's newest Masters: Jack Chen, Murarka D Prabhu Dayal (Club); Dick Walker, Jeff Weaver (Sectional); Brenna Wundram (Silver); Kevin Rosenberg (Gold).

I'm pleased to report that Jung Hu placed first in District 21's North American Pairs in flight C, Arthur Zhou was first in flight B, and Li-Chung Chen was third in flight A.

The unit board is working slowly on website improvements. Given some recent downtime of the website, the first order of business may be finding a new web host. If you're in that business or can provide advice, I'd really appreciate hearing about it.

Stockton

By *Debbie DeZarn*

Big news at the Oak Park Bridge Club! A lightning fast pledge drive spearheaded by Jenny Lind and Korey Baumbach resulted in raising the majority of the necessary funds to outfit the club with Bridgemates! Jenny made the initial large, generous pledge to get the ball rolling. This should make life a little easier for Korey; no more lost traveling scores and illegible entries with circles and question marks.



Donations are still needed to reach the goal and provide a cushion for other supplies and more terminals as the club grows. There was a record high of 17 full tables on January 16. Talk to Unit President Ken Hillman if you can contribute.

We welcome Wendy Buchanan back from cochlear implant surgery and a rough recovery. She recognized that her existing hearing aids and lip reading skills might not be enough for the rest of her life so made the difficult decision to retrain her brain to “hear” electronically while she is still young and healthy! Let’s all remember to use our alert cards, even for “announcements,” and then face the person who asks for clarification. There are MANY players in our clubs who use hearing aids and many more who don’t, but still do not hear alerts and explanations clearly.

The Monterey Clambake was a fun tournament; no rain until the last 2 days! Many Unit 510 players attended and Shirley Womack earned the necessary points there to achieve the rank of Regional Master. It was very nice to see our own Marilyn Minden working the Partnership Desk in Monterey. Her many years of hosting the Hospitality Suite (with Sally Wheeler-Valine) at District 21 Regionals were appreciated. I am grateful she has returned to active volunteer status in such a helpful, and hopefully less stressful, position.

Besides Monterey, Stockton unit members have been off earning points in other parts of the US. Sheryl Rauman played at a friendly club in Florida. Glo Klinger Williams and Jenny Lind enjoyed Hawaii in January. Debbie Greenberg won points with a pickup partner in Georgia.

Even closer to home, December and January wins provided the points needed to celebrate Ron Rose, who reached Regional Master in December, and Doug Mason and Gayle Ishii who are now Junior Masters.

The Unit 510 Mini McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs results have been tallied. The first is for the player who won the most masterpoints in all 2018 play, including club, tournament and online. The second is the top point winner in club play only. Frequently the same player wins both awards at the club level and this year that is true for all but three levels: 5-20 (points beginning 2018) Ace of Clubs goes to Shirley Burns. But Mini-McKenney in that bracket was a tie with Joe Velasquez and Janis Morehead at the top. For 20-50 points the winners are Judy Tillinghast and Francie Gillies. For 500-1000, Korey Bambach is AC and Glo Klinger Williams won MM.

For all remaining brackets, beginning with the 0-5 points, the following won both awards for their tiers: Lew Thorne, Lynette Foppiano, Wendy Buchanan, Debbie DeZarn, Jack Fitzgerald, Rose Knutson, Alan Hamilton, Lorna Crooks, Joan Garcia, Ann Nutting, and Howard Parker III. Awards will be presented at an upcoming Sunday unit game with potluck meal. There will be some special surprise awards this year.

Last call for referring your friends to the Beginning/Intermediate bridge class at Delta College in Stockton Feb. 25 (9 weekly 2 hour classes). Fee is \$30 to the college and includes as many of the community classes you’d like. Plus \$15 for a parking permit good all spring semester.

For you 99ers, encourage your social bridge friends to join you for the “limited” game on February 5 at 11:30 am at the Stockton Bridge Club. A light lunch is included in the \$8 fee.

San Mateo County Winter Sectional



February 23 and 24, 2019
Cañada College "Grove"
4200 Farm Hill Boulevard
Redwood City, CA 94061

Sanction 1902073

Saturday February 23, 2019	Sunday February 24, 2019
<p><u>10:00 AM</u></p> <p>Two Sessions Open Pairs (0-750/2000/2000+) (Pairs must play both sessions)</p> <p>One Session Open Pairs (0-500/1500/1500+)</p> <p>One Session 299er Pairs (100/200/300)</p> <p>Art Weinstein Trophy Pairs (0-100)</p>	<p><u>10:00 AM</u></p> <p>Two Sessions Stratified A/X Swiss Teams (0-4000/4000+) (First 3 or 4 rounds of 7 boards/round, staggered to reduce lines at lunch)</p> <p>Two Sessions Bracketed Swiss Teams (No player with more than 2000 points)</p> <p>One Session Open Pairs (0-500/1500/1500+)</p>
<p><u>1:30 PM Lunch</u></p>	<p><u>1:30 PM Lunch</u></p>
<p><u>3:00 PM</u></p> <p>2nd Session Open Pairs (0-750/2000/2000+)</p> <p>One Session Open Pairs (0-500/1500/1500+)</p> <p>One Session 299er Pairs (100/200/300)</p>	<p><u>Approximately 2:30 PM</u></p> <p>2nd Session Stratified A/X Swiss Teams (0-4000/4000+) (Last 3 or 4 rounds)</p> <p>2nd Session Bracketed Swiss Teams (No player with more than 2000 points)</p> <p>One Session Open Pairs (0-500/1500/1500+)</p>

Director-in-Charge: Greg Vance Greg.Vance@acbl.org

Tournament Chair, Partnership Coordinator: Bob Gleason bob.gleason@comcast.net

Fees per Session: ACBL members \$12, lapsed ACBL members \$16, students under 22 \$7

Directions to playing site:

From I280, exit at Farm Hill Boulevard, between Highway 92 and Woodside Road. Turn left into the Cañada campus at the first signal light. Follow the Loop Road (and signs) to lots #5 and #6. A map is available at <http://www.canadacollege.edu/about/campusmap.php>, and an elevator to the Grove is located at parking lot #4. The cafeteria at the Grove will be open for lunch.

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