



DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 1, Number 12 April 2019

District 21 Board News

By Ray Yuenger, District 21 Vice President

Coming to you from Memphis, or actually one day after my return. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll learn about District 21 events such as upcoming regionals, the Grand National Teams competition, and the fall nationals in San Francisco this year. I won't repeat that information. Instead, I'll tell you about three different topics, my visit to Memphis during the nationals as a bridge player, a meeting with the ACBL's National Recorder as the D21 disciplinary chair, and the D21 Youth Grant program as the chair of that committee.



The ACBL Museum

Being geographically (and historically) challenged, I couldn't have told you before my visit for the last nationals that Memphis, Tennessee is close to the southwestern tip of the state, across the Mississippi River from Arkansas, and within 20 miles of Horn Lake, Mississippi, where the ACBL headquarters is located. One morning during the nationals, I took advantage of the ACBL's offer of a shuttle van to visit the headquarters. The building stands alone about a half-mile south of a small shopping center and within five minutes driving exiting the 55 freeway.

While the building is rectangular, at its heart is a bridge museum with what seems to me like a circular design. The outer offices are for ACBL staff. The museum features video exhibits and also descriptive posters explaining the history of duplicate bridge. A short film featured Ely Culbertson giving bridge lessons. An age-appropriate television set showed one of the episodes of the Championship Bridge with

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District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager

The Sacramento California Capital Regional is right around the corner! If you haven't made a reservation, the only rooms left are at the beginning and end of the week. But there is a wonderful overflow hotel available. The Marriott Townplace Suites is very nearby and the \$114 rate includes breakfast. Parking is free at the tournament to everyone.



This year the playing areas will be somewhat

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District 21 2019 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

The final two Flights of the 2019 GNTs have concluded. Winning Flight C are Chris Chen, Andrew Sinclair, Jacob Karstens, and Quchen Gong. Flight A winners are Rajeev Gupta, Stephen Tu, Bruce Tuttle, and Tien-Chun Yang.



This year marks the first time the ACBL will allow districts to send two teams to the National Finals in both Flight B and Flight C; provided the district fields at least 8 teams in each competition.

D21 has always had a tremendous turnout, and thus is qualified to send our second place teams in both those stratifications. Well done all six teams, who will represent D21 in Las Vegas in July!

Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

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

2019 High School Bridge Tournament Sectional

Palo Alto 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

Aug 3–4, 2019

Wine Valley Sectional

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Aug 10–11, 2019

Castro Valley Sectional

Transfiguration Catholic Church, Castro Valley CA

Aug 14–17, 2019

Reno 2019 August Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Aug 17–18, 2019

San Mateo County Summer Sectional

Cañada College Cafeteria, Redwood City CA

Aug 19–25, 2019

Western Conference Summer Fun STaC

Local clubs

Sep 6–8, 2019

Sacramento Fall Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

Sep 14–15, 2019

Santa Cruz Surfs Up Sectional

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Sep 19–22, 2019

Carson-Tahoe Fall Sectional

Plaza Conference Center, Carson City NV

Sep 21–22, 2019

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Santa Rosa CA

Sep 27–29, 2019

Sacramento Fall NLM Sectional

Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Sep 28–29, 2019

Earthquake Sectional

Gilroy Senior Center, Gilroy CA

Regionals

May 27–June 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

Charles Goren television show. Goren narrated the bidding and play of hands, and the episode included Chico Marx as one of the players.

A number of bridge trophies were on display and a bridge library was attached to the museum. I don't think it's intended to be a comprehensive library of every bridge book published. Two items most captured my attention. One was a large collection of trump indicators donated by Joan Schepps. It included many different items to be used for designating the trump suit in social bridge, including a movable cat's tail, a waiter's pointing hand, a circus ringmaster's wand, and much more.

And if you think dealing machines are a new idea, below is a photo of an electric dealing machine invented in 1932 by Laurens Hammond, also the inventor of the electric organ.

The machine was designed to serve as a card table. A deck of cards was inserted into a slot and a robot arm mechanically thumbed one



1932 hand dealing machine

card at a time into a circular track while a second rotating arm moved the cards around the track and dropped them randomly into four hands, dealing a deck in under a minute. The company sold over 14,000 machines in 1932, but with the onset of the Great Depression, production was halted by the end of the same year.

I'd recommend a visit if you are in the area.

Disciplinary Developments

Another morning at the nationals I attended a presentation by Robb Gordon, the National Recorder, and Sabrina Goley, Compliance Coordinator, explaining the ACBL's player disciplinary structure. Having been the D21 Disciplinary Chair for a decade and a unit disciplinary chair before that, much of the information was familiar to me, but Robb and Sabrina have been working hard since Robb's appointment last year to organize the information and make it more available. I'm occasionally consulted on behalf of unit disciplinary chairs regarding local problem

players. Probably a better source of information is at www.acbl.org/ethics. One link on that page is to disciplinary flowcharts. It explains the roles of unit recorders and disciplinary chairs. It also explains the very limited oversight by the unit of club games. That disciplinary role is primarily filled by the director or club manager.

The impact of completing a player memo to complain of a fellow player's conduct historically has been questioned with good reason, but Robb has been working hard to try to make the disciplinary structure work. If you don't provide input, you can't complain about its effectiveness.

Youth Grant Program

I'm currently the chair of a D21 program that provides up to \$500 per grantee (within a \$10,000 total limit) to facilitate attendance at the Youth North American Bridge Championships during the summer Nationals. Applicants must be under 20 years of age as of June 15 of the grant year and a D21 member in good standing with the ACBL. Applicants must be sponsored by either their units or a youth bridge organization. The program details have been distributed to the units and youth bridge organizations in D21. We'll get them posted on the D21 website as well. Applications are due a week before Memorial Day.

Hughes

different. The Daylight Pairs (10:00 and 3:00 games) will be in the Grand Ballroom, above the room they have been in previously. You may still park in the same area, just use the stairs or elevator to go up one level.

Apart from Tuesday, the Gold Rush pair games (Wednesday through Friday) will be in Maxi's and the Garden Terrace. Those rooms are upstairs behind the front desk in the hotel lobby.

All other events will be as usual - 9:00 games in the Grand, 299er lecture and 1:00 game in the Capital Ballroom area, 1:00 and 7:00 pair games in the Capital, and team games in the Grand.

Whew! Change can be tricky. Just allow yourself a little extra time when you come for your first game of the week.

Speaking of change, we were sorry to lose the last of our two "regular" DIC's, Matt Smith and Nancy Boyd. They provided us with many years

of excellent service and will be missed. But, on the plus side, we have acquired some new people whom I'm very excited to work with! You will be familiar with them all, since they have been TDs for the district before.

In charge of Sacramento is Matt Koltnow, whom some of you know as "Malt" or "Little Matt" (because he is shorter than Matt Smith). He has a lot of experience being in charge of regionals in Districts 19 and 20. For Santa Clara we have Ken Horwedel. If you were in Modesto last year he was DIC there and did an excellent job. District 21's own Lynn Yokel will be in charge of Reno. For Monterey we will have McKenzie Myers, who has lived all over the country as the ACBL promoted him again and again; he is now in Southern California and in charge of all tournament directors in the Southwest. We are very lucky to have such wonderful people taking over for Matt and Nancy!

Lastly, a reminder to make your reservations for Santa Clara, and I want to encourage you all to attend the tournament in Reno. We are trying to grow this tournament! This year the

main playing times are 10:00 and 3:00, which we have had a lot of demand for. The knockouts and all two session pair games will be at these times (there will be smaller events every night at 7:30 for those of you who like to play all day and night!).

The Nugget is a tremendous venue. I know people worry about smoke in casinos, but we've got it worked out. Our playing area is smoke free, and all smoking areas are far away from it. If you stay in the Resort Tower, the elevators drop you in the playing area, and the rooms are very nice and also smoke free. With such low room rates, it's the most affordable tournament in the country, and will eventually be a great regional for District 21 if we can get together and support it. So if you haven't attended yet, come this year (and support Lynn's first turn at being a DIC!

Booking links and information are available for all our tournaments on our district website: ACBL District 21—Northern California and Reno.

I wish you all the best until we meet again.



Bridge Summer Camp

Do you know a 5th - 10th grader who likes games?



WHEN Monday, June 24th to Friday, June 28th
1:00 to 5:00 PM instruction and play daily
Friday special pizza party and tournament with prizes!

WHERE IFES Hall 432 Stierlin Road, Mountain View, CA

QUESTIONS www.SIVYBridge.org



email: summercamp@siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org



Now You Can Name A Game!

***At The 2019 North American
Bridge Championships
Nov 28 – Dec 8, 2019***

**The perfect gift for friends, family or even a bridge partner!
Great for a 2019 Birthday, Anniversary, Tribute, Memorial,
Friendship Message, Master Level Achievement...**

Why not buy **Naming "rights"** to a **regionally rated event** at the upcoming **SAN FRANCISCO NABC** in the fall of 2019? The regionally rated events that complement the NABC+ event schedule are available **NOW**. Honor someone close to you personally or someone special in your local bridge world, or promote your bridge club or business. These dollars will offset costs incurred by D21 to host the 2019 SF Nationals. (Payment must be received prior to printing deadlines noted below.)

Please act ASAP if you want your named event to be included on the four-page San Francisco NABC schedule distributed nationally by ACBL. Deadline for the 1st printing by ACBL is 2/15; 2nd printing is 8/15. This schedule with your named event will also be posted on the ACBL website and in the NABC Daily Bulletins. Event naming can occur up to the day before the event, to be published only in the NABC Daily Bulletins.

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.

Choose the Level of Naming Rights to Fit Your Wishes!

- ♦ \$2,500 An entire day named
- ♠ \$500 Naming rights for a Regional 4-session KO event
- ♥ \$350 Naming rights for a Regional 2-session event, including Open Pairs, Gold Rush Pairs, Swiss Teams and Compact Knockouts
- ♦ \$250 Naming rights for a 3-Session Side Game Series
- ♣ \$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**

California Capital Regional

May 27 - June 2, 2019

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
- Mid Flight Pairs Wed - Friday
- 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
- 0-5 mp's play free 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

Matt Koltnow - Director in Charge

ACBL Sanction R1906041



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

Reserve **EARLY** for the
BRIDGE RATE
\$109 single/double plus tax
\$149 for Cal Expo Wing

limited number of rooms available

916-929-8855
800-222-TREE

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs Every Day
(stratified based on attendance)

**Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell**

Tues-Sat at Noon

Free game for 0-5mp's Sat. 1:00

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.

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

Like us on FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/d21acbl

California Capital Regional

May 27 - June 2, 2019

at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento

Monday May 27

- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 1st of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
AMERICAN RIVER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
- 7:00 **AUBURN BRACKETED KOs**
Continues Tuesday 9, 1 & 7
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 2nd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Tuesday May 28

- 9:00 AUBURN KOs – round 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
TUESDAY DAYLIGHT GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 3rd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**
EL DORADO BRACKETED KOs
rounds 1&2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7
AUBURN KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 4th of 6

Wednesday May 29

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 5th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
Continues Thursday 1 & 7
EL DORADO KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 6th of 6

Thursday May 30 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 EUREKA SWISS TEAMS – 2nd of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **JACKIE MATTHEWS DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 1st of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
KINGS BRACKETED KOs rounds 1 & 2,
Continues Friday 1 & 7
SIERRA KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 2nd of 6

Friday May 31

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 3rd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
DELTA COMPACT KOs
KINGS KOs - rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 4th of 6

Saturday June 1

- 9:00 JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS – 2nd of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
GOLD RUSH SWISS 0-300/750
- 1:00 FREE GAME 0-5 mp's (attendance permitting)
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 5th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **CALIFORNIA CAPITAL OPEN SWISS TEAMS**
Two qualifying sessions Saturday
Two final sessions Sunday
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
OPEN BRACKETED TEAMS
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 6th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Sunday June 2

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

CALIFORNIA SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP finals
STRATIFIED A/X SWISS TEAMS

Strat A 4000+ Strat X 0-4000

0-3000 mp Bracketed Swiss Teams

•No individual player over 3000 mp

•Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall places per bracket.

•Teams may not withdraw after one session.

SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)

STRATIFIED OPEN FAST PAIRS, 1st and 2nd

10am and TBA

299er Swiss Teams & 299ers Stratified Pairs

two single sessions

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

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2500+ B 1000 – 2500 C 0 - 1000

Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.

Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

RANK UPGRADES

JUNIOR MASTERS

Betty Anderson, Sacramento CA, 505
Erna Bailey, Reno NV, 473
Phyllis Blackwell, Reno NV, 473
John Bowman, Placerville CA, 505
Lou Browning, Aptos CA, 550
Mary Castagna, Monterey CA, 530
Andrew Chen, San Jose CA, 507
Rhian Davies, San Francisco CA, 506
David Freimuth, Martinez CA, 499
Lisa French, Windsor CA, 509
Michael Gardner, Los Altos CA, 503
Gerald Grisler, Acampo CA, 510
William Harris, Sonoma CA, 512
Cynthia Hull, Piedmont CA, 502
Candace Kelly, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Howard Miller, San Francisco CA, 506
Sooja Nehrlich, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Beryl Neyrey, Incline Village NV, 465
Narayanan Niranjan, Santa Cruz CA, 507
Ginny Reeves, Danville CA, 499
Madeline Soo, Reno NV, 473
Beverly Stamper, Kentfield CA, 508
Sherri Sugarman, Mill Valley CA, 508
Julie Wong, Tiburon CA, 508

CLUB MASTERS

Marcella Bellow, Sacramento CA, 505

Etan Cohen, San Francisco CA, 506
Betty Dobak, Sacramento CA, 505
Margaret Garms, Oakland CA, 502
Wing Gee, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Jane Gold, Saratoga CA, 507
Layne Hersh, Carmichael CA, 505
Jule Hilton, Santa Cruz CA, 550
Clint Hudson, Fresno CA, 522
Prince Kohli, Saratoga CA, 507
David Lawson IV, Sacramento CA, 505
Jason Leith, Oakland CA, 502
Brenda Perry, Napa CA, 512
Esme Scanlin, Los Altos CA, 503
Terry Sciabica, Modesto CA, 529
David Steinberg, Alamo CA, 499

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Jane Blum, El Dorado Hills CA, 505
Jack Chen, Saratoga CA, 507
Yewen Fan, Union City CA, 500
Suzanne Vuko, San Mateo CA, 498

REGIONAL MASTERS

Anne Baxter, Hillsborough CA, 498
James Kraus, Roseville CA, 505
Robyn Lee, San Mateo CA, 498

Jesse Liu, Fremont CA, 500
Matthew Shi, Palo Alto CA, 503
Naomi Spiegelman, Mill Valley CA, 508
Donna Wirt, Saratoga CA, 507

NABC MASTERS

Paul Ferber, Reno NV, 473
Janice Flowers-Sonne, Eugene OR, 503
Robert Hevener, San Mateo CA, 498
Christina Kamra, Woodside CA, 498
Anita Marcus, Tiburon CA, 508
Barry Rauchle, San Ramon CA, 499

ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Judith Ritchie, Pebble Beach CA, 530

LIFE MASTERS

ROSE BAUER, HILLSBOROUGH CA, 498
LORELEI GREENFIELD, HILLSBOROUGH CA, 498
CHARLES RAUCH, MONTEREY CA, 530
STEPHEN RUSSELL, BRENTWOOD CA, 499
DIANE SIMPSON, BETHEL ISLAND CA, 499
KATHY WOLF, ORINDA CA, 502

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Kathleen Beasley, Wilton CA, 505
Kenneth Carlson, Sacramento CA, 505

Jon Greenfield, Hillsborough CA, 498
Michael Hu, San Jose CA, 503
Charleen Lee, Gold River CA, 505
Mark Moore, Morgan Hill CA, 524
Myrna Rudman, Sacramento CA, 505
Drayton Swartz, Castro Valley CA, 500
Susan Zhang, Los Altos Hills CA, 503

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Anne Lindl, Livermore CA, 501
Nani Ranken, Novato CA, 508
Shelia Smith, Fresno CA, 522
Richard Tebay, Napa CA, 512

RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Mark Dean, Dublin CA, 501
Susan Pankopf, Roseville CA, 505

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Julius Kerenyi, Lincoln CA, 505

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

Michel Schneider, Pittsburg CA, 499

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

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Area	Unit	Columnist
<u>Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond</u>	<u>497</u>	<u>Mark Kornman</u>
<u>Diablo Valley</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>Lisa Assoni</u>
<u>East Bay</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Marcia Wasserman</u>
<u>Fresno</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>Laura Da Costa</u>
<u>Livermore Valley</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>Rosemarie LaFrancesca</u>
<u>Marin</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>Gail Haar</u>
<u>Modesto/Merced/Sonora</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>Gail Vick</u>
<u>Monterey</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>Mary Block</u>
<u>Napa/Solano/Sonoma Valley</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>Tom Sheahan</u>
<u>Palo Alto</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>Carolyn Chaney</u>
<u>San Francisco</u>	<u>506</u>	<u>Kim Fanady</u>
<u>San Mateo</u>	<u>498</u>	<u>Fran Gaura</u>
<u>Santa Cruz</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>Karen Schamberg</u>
<u>Santa Rosa/Petaluma</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>Cecelia Zachar</u>
<u>Silicon Valley</u>	<u>507</u>	<u>Ray Yuenger</u>
<u>Stockton</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>Debbie DeZarn</u>

Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

By The Beer Dude

Wrote this one over a 2-3 day span while lounging on our ex-pat friend Peter Golitzen's lanai; so nice to have 10 days away from the cold rainy weather that's afflicted the Bay Area for too damned long! Hit the Kona Brewfest on 3/9; rest of the time pretty much was kick back & relax, eating good food, & drinking lots of good beer. There wasn't much to write about for a March column, so I bagged it; will catch the small stuff up here.

4 unit games btwn 1/30 & 3/1, here goes: Wed 1/30 drew 7.5, which Carol Scott & "H" topped; chasers being Dexter-Gordon 2A/1B, Eric & Dick 3A, Sandi & Roseanne 4A/2B, Marcia Mattoon & Aki A/3B, & Roger Edelson & George Proper 4B. Fri 2/1 drew (OMG – a Hawaiian bee just flew thru, sans buzz!) 5.5 tables; Eric & Sandi topped it. Chasers were Shahla & Aki 2A/1B, Carol & "H" 3A, Ray Barber & Inja Hwang 4/5A-2B, Lamar & Dick 4/5A, and Dolores Mackinnon & Chet Young 3B. Wed 2/27 drew 7 tables; Dexter & Gordon topped it, with Joanne Cobeen & Trudie Sinclair 2A, Meg Gallaway & John Love 3A/1B, Vicky Chen-Inja Hwang 4A/2B, Carl Scott & Susan Kovacevic 5A, & Kerstin Barnett-Catherine Warren 3B. Fri 3/1 drew 6.5 tables, which the C flight dominated! Meg G & George Proper topped it, with the Tamms 2nd, Sandi & me (filling in for E, who took ill early) 3rd, Carol Scott & "H" 4A, & Dexter-Gordon A/4B. Only 1 unit game in April – Fri the 4th. Time to sign up for the May 18 BBQ Swiss (call/e-mail me, or in person when I direct).

6 new members since 1/1: David Gaddy, Leslie Hasberg, Bill Link, Lorraine Midanik, Longling Than, & Ziheng Yun; plus transfers-in Laura Davis (East Bay) & Drew Tudd (In-house – I suspect he's returned from overseas with 300 MPs). Just one transfer-out, Renee Gaines to Sonoma-Napa. Rank advancers now get posted herein every month, so I won't be redundant, just as I've always been about local tourney results posted here.

At da club, Eric was Jan PM champ; Dick topped Feb. On the NLM side, Roger Edelson topped Jan; John Love & Meg shared Feb honors. STaC games coming May 8 & 10 – no club championship games the 1st month of each quarter. No more roof leaks, but the restroom locks are a nagging issue over

which we have no control – all we can do is report them. We will do the Longest Day Wed Jun 19 (my late mom's b'day – but she never showed but minor signs of Alz after she reached 85).

More fun, this time on the "Ruling the Game" side. Before you can get called to the table, dummy's hand comes down after a lead out of turn! Had never seen this happen before, either while playing or directing – how do you rule, given that declarer & his/her LHO both have unauthorized info? I let it stand, but declarer's hand was such that she would have barred the suit led (which her RHO had bid) & likely gone down 1 instead of 2. Nasty call, given that both sides committed infractions.

W/luck, I'll have returned to warmer & drier weather than I left – and may the Warriors get past their current malaise in time for the playoffs – if you went to Memphis for the NABCs, I hope you fared well; meanwhile.

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

Diablo Valley

By The ShortCut Cook

April is a lovely month for playing bridge. The origin of April stems from the Latin word Aprilis. On the first of April, the ancient Romans had a festival honoring Venus Verticordia, goddess of love, and the changer of hearts. Love is an emotion that evokes kindness and caring. As we come to the tables this month, let's show sensitivity to our opponents and partners.



Speaking of hearts, diamonds are the birthstone for April. Who doesn't love a diamond, especially when you reach the milestone for becoming a Big D player. Diamonds are the hardest natural precious stone. We should be a lot like the diamond. Tough to beat, and a resilient player.

More fun and more food was dished-up for the Ken White Memorial Pro-Am game. On Saturday, February 25, many Life Masters and above, catered to the Non Life Masters. It was a dicey game, with all wanting to take home a few morsels of points. Mark Humphreys stepped up to the plate once again and made this great

event happen. The following folks scored big. The Top of the Heap were the following players: Larry Mille-Mark Kogin, Jerry Chamberlain-Kerry Smith, Irwin Lichtblau-Mark Penskar, and Sandi Cummings-Loreta Landucci. A big plate of praise to all!

I played with Barbara Fendel; she's one smart cookie. What a privilege to play with such a bridge whiz, and very nice lady too. We had a grand time, even if we didn't score. We hit it big on fun.

Did you know that our summer sectional is set for June 29 and 30? For some of us, this location is just perfect, the driving is easy; so hold that date, mark it on your calendar, and make arrangements for a partner. Don't forget to gather up a Swiss Team too. As always, the food and fun will all be served-up, Just for you!

And that's the way the cookie crumbles.

Ciao Bella

East Bay

By Marcia Wasserman

When people tell you to get all your gold, silver, and red points early on before you must play against the big guys in tournaments, heed their warnings. So often getting your last couple of silver is the biggest struggle people have before attaining Life Master. That was the case with Kathy Wolf, who only needed five more silver to put her over the edge. She was playing in sectionals for the past few months just to get those points. Then lo and behold, the San Mateo Sectional came around and she and her partner, Malcolm Mendelson, were forced to play in the open game. Their goal was to not give any gifts and just play a solid game. That resulted in a second-place finish overall, garnering them 19.42 silver. Not only did that give her all the silver she needed, but it put her over the top for Life Master.

We are also very proud of our Unit 502 board member, Doug Couchman, who was tapped to be on the National Masterpoint Revision Committee. This is a very select group, comprising only a few people nationwide, and our own Doug, who is a math savant, was asked to be one of them.

As you all know, when a partner's hand comes down as dummy, regardless of what you see, you are supposed to tell partner that the board looks lovely. Doug takes this one step further. He was overheard at the Sunday unit game telling his partner that dummy was adorable. Doug is not only great at what he does,

but he's a mensch as well (look it up).

Speaking of unit games, there were two in the month of February. On February 3, Art Mirin and Pat Leary came in first N/S with a 62.04%, tied with Betty Kael and Susan Boyers who finished first E/W. Ching Chao and Joye Sidoti finished second N/S at 60.88% while Ravi Bhalla and David Snyder finished second at 58.56%. On February 17, Allan Harris and David Snyder came in first N/S at 60.61%, while Bonnie Macbride and Sidney Mar came in first E/W with a whopping 67.31%. Second N/S was Neal Mazaroff and Stuart Schneck at 59.28%, and Teresa Boyd and Grant Robinson came in second E/W at 60.90%.

There are unit games the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 1:00 preceded by a light lunch -- for only \$7, cheaper than a senior movie price! On the Sundays when there is no unit game there is always a club game also including a light lunch. On March 3 there were 17 tables, so this is turning out to be a fan favorite. The only other special event in April is a club membership game at 10:30 on April 2.

We had two new members transfer into Unit 502 -- Sally Adams and Cynthia Hull. Please welcome them to our unit the next time you see them.

Last, but certainly not least, we have some rank advancements. Susan Carrithers, Elaine Oldham, and Blair Hull are new Junior Masters; Allan D McAllister and Robert Schenker are new Club Masters; Jakob Karstens is a new Regional Master; Larry Schaleger made Life Master; Julie Burnet is a new Bronze Life Master and David Cartwright is the newest Ruby Life Master. Congratulations to all.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

The Fresno Winter Sectional took place on Presidents Day Weekend, February 15-18. As been our trend lately, the tournament is profitable, but we continue to lose tables compared to previous years. Especially hurting is the Open Swiss Teams game on Sunday—though the 499er Swiss Teams game seems to be doing fairly well. If you have suggestions for how to bolster attendance in that session or in the tournament as a whole, please let a Board member know. As tournament chair, I want to thank Dianne Barton Paine (Tournament Director), Mary Lou Pease (Partnership Chair), and Jackie Finn (Hospitality Chair). Also my appreciation goes to Kay

Chrisman, Deb Petersen, & Belva Quattrin for their contributions. Also, our appreciation goes to all who donated money and refreshments each day. The Friday afternoon game was the 10th Annual Mary Jo Davila Memorial Game; winners in the Open Game were (N/S) Laura Da Costa & Barbara Thacker and (E/W & Overall) Richard Meffley & Farid Assemi. The winners for the 499er game (in a tie) were Jackie Finn & George Efthemon and Jason McAlexander & Deborah Kemp. The President's Award winner was Richard Meffley, and Top 99er winner was Ann Keag.

The 10th Annual Anniversary Lunch and Charity Game is scheduled for April 7. The anniversary party this year will also celebrate the 75th anniversary of bridge being played in Fresno. The charity we chose to raise money for this year is Pro Hospice, the organization that took care of Maggie Mahaffey earlier this year. Lunch, at noon, will be provided by the Board of Directors. Come and join us.

Also, at the time I write this article, April 28 is scheduled to be a Pro-Am Team game. These Potluck Lunch/Swiss Teams games are one of our more popular events. If you have never participated in a team event, this is a great opportunity to see how these games work.

After only two 70% games in January, it is nice to see quite a few take place in February. Oakhurst had two pairs in the Thursday morning game as Judy Bingham & Ken Sommers, 72.69% on 2/7, and Ken Doig & Claire Molnar, 72.02% on 2/28. Madera also had two pairs as Carol Kaufman & Steve Johnson with a huge 83.33% on 2/13, and Richard Meffley & Gary Nelson, 75% on 2/20. The remaining three pairs were in Fresno. Richard Meffley & Victor Greener, 70.83% on the Saturday afternoon game on 2/2. Robert Durbrow & Belva Quattrin, 73.18% in the Monday afternoon game on 2/4. Finally, Lois High & Doris Myers, 75% in the Fresno Winter Sectional's Saturday morning 199er game on 2/16.

Congratulations to Sheila Smith who reached the rank of Silver Life Master (1000 mps).

A big welcome to new Unit 522 members: John Galaznik (Coarsegold), Suzanne Karp (Fresno), Nancy Lyday (Coarsegold), and Jimmy Moore (Mariposa).

The free Saturday morning bridge lessons will be taking the month of April off. However, new lessons will begin again in May. Remember to let your friends and family know.

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

We have several new and new to us members in our unit this month – John Loftus, Ilene Schwerin, Barry Shafran, Glenise Sibbern, Bruce Stamper, Richard Sundberg, Susan Sundberg, Golda Boeck Anita Marcus and Connie Shapiro. Be sure to greet them warmly when you meet them at the table. Congratulations to our members who have advanced a rank – Jayme Goodale & Billie Zeisler (Sectional Master); Charneth Belander (Regional Master); Miriam Kaegi & Rita Schaulat (Advanced NABC Master); and Kathy Sanders (Silver Life Master). Only 1 big game this month, Andrea Ventris & Jeff Sengstack had 71.59% at Hoppe's Thursday morning game. The unit team game champions were Linda Danzig, Sara Foster and their teammates.

It's almost here. The annual Marin Sectional is April 13 & 14 in the Redwood High School Gym in Larkspur. See the flyer at marinbridge.com and just click on the



“Sectional” link. Encourage all your “new to bridge” friends to join in the fun – there is free Novice Game (under 5 points) on Saturday morning as well as 99’er pairs in the afternoon (0-20, 20-50, 50-100). Sign-ups to bring snacks are posted at our various clubs. We’re famous for our yummy food so step up and be part of the fun! The partnership desk is up and running. Contact Andrea Ventris at 415-699-3175 or aventris@yahoo.com.

Follow up your sectional fun with Robert Todd’s workshop on Thursday April 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Terra Linda Recreation Center. An outstanding bridge professional and teacher, Robert will be talking about Forcing bids and Opening Leads, Signals and Discards. Class is limited to 88 participants so register in advance with martha@marthaengland.com. More about Mr. Todd at www.advinbridge.com

District 21 is offering grants of up to \$500.00 for qualified district members to attend the Youth North American Bridge Championships during the summer Nationals. Grant amounts within the district’s annual limit of \$10,000.00 will depend on the number of qualified applicants, with priority given, if necessary, to first-time grant recipients. To be qualified, an applicant must be under 20 years of age as of June 15 of the grant year and a member in good standing of the American Contract Bridge League. ACBL Junior memberships are available at <https://my.acbl.org/membership/join> for \$5. Applicants under 18 must provide proof they will have a responsible adult chaperone during travel and while attending the Championships. Deadline for submission of applications is 1 week prior to Memorial Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your young friends and relatives to tournament bridge. For more information go to <http://www.d21acbl.com/programs/youth/sponsorshipProgram.pdf>.

The San Francisco NABC is coming this fall from November 28 through December 8. Lots more information will be available soon, but for now mark your calendars to be where the bridge action is on Tuesday, December 3, when our unit will be providing volunteers for the different desks. Stints will be short and concentrated because the idea is that everyone will be able to both volunteer and play.

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!

And a bit of poetry to end with - The Ravin’ by Edgar Allan Pavlicek

Once upon a midnight, Drury
Drove my partner to a fury.
All I did was bid two clubs;
Don’t know why he got so sore.
While I nodded, nearly napping,
I received a verbal flapping.
Partner asked me o’er and o’er,
“Have you ever played before?”
As for Drury...
Nevermore

Modesto/Merced/Sonora

By Gail Vick

During the second half of February, Ray Adams & Sheela Wani took 1st in A with 68.53%, and Connie Arnold & Barbara Page were 1st in both B & C Divisions at 61.57%. Beginner & Intermediate Sunday Game winners were Libby Longstreth & Jeanne Russo 1st in A with 68.06%, and Terry Sciabica & Jeff Gaudio 1st in both B & C Divisions at 55.56%.



Frank Frohman & Bruce Ruskin were 1st in A Division with 67.50%, followed by Dee Alexander & Galen Neptune taking 1st in B at 63.55%, and Dee Alexander, Pam Sands, Judy Remmers and Gail Vick all tying for 1st in C with 60.19% during the first half of March. The Sunday Beginning & Intermediate Group was won by Libby Longstreth & Don Wald for 1st in A at 61.85%, and Marcia & Jim Laird placed 1st in B with 51.86%.

The unit also had another Friday Night Fun Bridge event. Overall winners, 1st in both A & B Division went to Pat Gallo & Dee Heller at 64.24%, and 1st in C were Terry Sciabica & Jeff Gaudio.

The Sunday Beginning group had a huge St. Patrick’s Day bash! So much food from everyone, with Judy making her corn beef and cabbage stew. Overall winners were Libby Longstreth & Don Wald for 1st in both A and B Division, followed by Jim Page & Barbara Bogart for 1st in C.

We will be having our Spring Sectional again on

Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, Homewood Village Mobile Home Park, on Mable Avenue, between Oakdale Road and Coffee Road, Modesto. Mable Avenue runs east and west. Homewood is closer to Oakdale Road, on Mable. Beginning at 10, with Pairs on Saturday, and Swiss Teams on Sunday. All stratified.

Sunday the 10th, the unit had its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration with Jeanne Russo at the helm preparing her fabulous corn beef and cabbage. Steering behind her was Ralph Jungwirth who organized an afternoon event of "Barometer Bridge", involving a lot of work and phone calling. Overall High Scores were Frank & Robert Frohman placing 1st in A with 67.82%, and Debbie DeZarn & Usha Bansal who took 1st overall in both B & C Divisions at 59.38%. Needless to say, it was an intense afternoon of bridge in more ways than one.

Roland Wilson is recuperating quickly from hip surgery, doing well and already back at bridge! Lou Israel was a passenger in a car accident, home from the hospital, on the mend, back to bridge soon. John Rudesill is also not feeling well, but hopefully better soon. Vicki MacClyment chipper enough to be playing bridge again, after her long haul with hip surgery. Get Well Wishes to all of you and glad to see everyone getting back to better health!

Monterey

By Mary Block

The unit welcomes the following new or transferring members: Dong Tan, Terence Degan, Paul Spiegelman, and Jean Stauffer. We hope that you will find this collection of clubs a pleasant place to enjoy your duplicate bridge.

We have a few more rank advancements to report this month: Marie Louie, Albert Low, Laurie Slagter, and Michael Slagter are new Junior Masters. Steven Green and Michael Lach are now Club Masters. Kelly O'Keefe and Sandra Solitario have reached Sectional Master status and Patricia Haynes is now a Regional Master. Keith Hedlund and Annemarie Von Adelung are NABC Masters. Bill Cohen is now a Life Master. Congratulations to all.

The Board of Directors will be holding an election this spring, with three positions open. Pat Heller is in charge of the nomination process; contact her if you are interested or have someone you would like to nominate. This is an especially important year with all of the

pending changes. The success of the unit depends on the efforts of the volunteer members, represented by the board.

Start making plans for the sectional tournament at the Bridge Center the week-end of May 17-19, Friday through Sunday. Laura Gherman and Bill Cohen are the co-chairs of the tournament and the schedule of events is available at the Bridge Center and on-line.

The Shuffle and Play sessions on Thursday afternoon are continuing, supervised by Hetty Eddy. More players have been attending and transitioning to regular club games as their comfort level increases. Hetty has also started a Monday late afternoon class she calls "Returning to Bridge" for those who have been absent from the game and need to update their skills.

As you are aware by now, we are losing our beloved Bridge Center building by the end of this year. But the loss of the building will not mean the end of Unit 530. Our Board of Directors and the Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation are pooling their time and efforts to find a solution that will work for the wide variety of club games and players that we have in the unit. If anyone reading this has a lead on possible sites, please contact the Committee, Susan Mazzei at samazzei@gmail.com. We need to take a united approach to this problem.

Our Unit has nearly 400 members of various levels of experience and dedication. We have long prided ourselves on our welcoming attitude toward newcomers and visitors as well as the education and mentoring provided for those who want to improve their play. Having the Bridge Center building in such a central location has enabled the unit to provide 10 plus games a week, attracting regular players from Santa Cruz to South Monterey County as well as the many visitors to the Monterey Peninsula. Over the years, the Bridge Center has brought together many people sharing the love of the game. Friendships have flourished and romances have bloomed.

If not for Brad Dow, we would not have had the many years of enjoyment in our building. Brad located the building and donated a great deal of his own money, as well as his expertise, to transform the old wreck into what it is today. We have an annual Brad Dow Appreciation game in his honor, and that was held on March 17. The winners in the open section were Gerald Kapolka/Mits Tatsugawa and Anjalie Kulkarni/Mary Quenette in the 299'er section.

We are www.montereybridgeclub.com (831)384-

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

Get those pots and pans out and start making cookies and boiling eggs! The Sonoma Sectional is on its way and players from around the Bay Area are expecting the usual good food and hospitality that we're known for. Saturday/Sunday April 27 and 28 are the dates of the tournament so start thinking now of what you will be bringing. Besides the good food and camaraderie, the game itself is always lively and enjoyable so mark your calendar. See Sigrid Price if you have any questions.

There was a lot of rain in February so there were full tables in our club games. Tom Jacobson was the big hitter in those games as he had wins in the Sonoma, Napa, and unit games before giving us a break and taking off for Egypt and Jordan. No word yet if he had any games with the Pharaohs.

In Rio Vista, Tad Quayle & Robert Wiskotzil won twice and Joyce Vass & Chandler Stauffer and Alan Morris & John Shick picked up the other wins.

There were some big hitters in the 499er game also as at least 70% was needed to win 3 of those 4 games. The 70% winners were Carole Terry & Gail Silvestri, Renate Bialy & Ann Begin, and Dick Hale & Willa Mundell. Sandy Hicks & Eileen Holsten won the other game.

Tom Jacobson won two of the Friday games, once with Sigrid Price and once with Gerry Fox. Dale Oleson & Nathan Tierney and Larry Page & Joanne Wegsten won the other two games. Tom & Sigrid also won a unit game as did Molly Johnston & Dan Harp.

Tom Jacobson spun his magic in Sonoma also as he teamed up with Kate Hill to win twice and once again with Gerry Fox for another first place finish. Barry Samuel also won twice, once with Evelyn Holtz and once with Shirley Blum. Other wins were registered by Bill Wells & Shirley Wilkinson, Lilyan Frank & Sheila Malinowski, and Gary Robinson & John Kozero.

In the Santa Rosa Sectional our only players that did well were in the 299er game. Carol Fraser & Muthiah Ramanathan were 2nd overall in one game and in the other game, Sandy Hicks & Marilyn Edwardes were



first in B and Cynthia Crawford & Sylvia Landt were first in C.

Good luck to Eileen Holsten who is recovering from a knee replacement. Eileen has done a lot for our club over the years particularly in making fabulous food for our sectionals and other events. Besides that, she's at the top of the list of the nicest person in our club so we wish her a speedy recovery and speedy return to the tables.

Another player who will be missed is Joe Freeman who has moved to Henderson, Nevada. Joe also did a lot for the unit as a behind the scenes guy who always pulled the right cord when needed. Joe mentored and taught a lot of us early on and is responsible for bringing many players into the Open games. Best of luck Joe and Teri!

Doris Leckie celebrated her 102nd birthday at the Sonoma bridge club. Doris plays 3 to 4 times a week and last summer she played both days in our Sectional. She played 52 boards on Saturday and 49 more on Sunday in our Swiss team game.



Doris Leckie



Sonoma players celebrated Doris's birthday in grand style.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

Do you have a regular partner that you play at least once a week? If yes, let me tell you one way that my regular partner and I work on our game. We keep (and have recently updated) our Partnership Book, where we write down all our agreements. We started with the convention card, discussed each section and wrote down in detail what we play. Often we did some web research to see what the experts suggest and then added to our agreements what we liked, and thought we could remember. For example, now we are considering what to do over opponents' pre-empts based on a chart at kwbridge.com, where Karen Walker has a library of ideas for all players, beginner through advanced. I used to think that a partnership book was for the pros like Meckstroth-Rodwell. But when I learned that some of our best Palo Alto players keep partnership notes, I wanted to try it. Our book has solved some heated arguments that started, "Well, I thought we agreed." No, I thought we said." Our book reminds us of our agreements. If you are curious, ask me for a peek at my book. Or check out Cohen's partnership checklist at larryco.com.



Now for our Unit news:

1) It still isn't too late to sign up for Robert Todd's special workshops, Slam Bidding and Trump Management, coming on Saturday April 27. Only \$85 if you register and pay by April 27.

2) Don't forget, Gabi's Tuesday game at the Unity Church will be moving to 11:30 in April. Think Slam!

3) Unit games, including 299er sections, will occur the weekend of April 6-7. Pairs Saturday and Swiss Teams Sunday at noon (lunch at 11:30).

4) Our lecture series continues Tuesday April 9 at 9:30 am with Bruce Blakely on Finesses. On April 23, Frank Smoot helps us solve the mystery of Defense in the Middle of the Hand.

5) We are working hard to become the premier eco-bridge center. Now we have clearly labeled bins for compost (dirty plates and napkins, paper towels), recycling (clean plastic, bottles and cans, clean paper score sheets) and trash (plastic bags, dirty or black plastic, moo containers, etc). Keep up the good work, Palo Alto players!

Congratulations to our newest Life Masters, Dick Herzog and David Wong. Also, three members added colors to their Life Masters: Randy Jones (bronze) Ying Liu (silver) and Rose Lachman (Ruby).



New LM Dick Herzog

In SiVY news, the fifth annual High School Championships will be on April 28 at our bridge center. There will be Teams and Pairs events in the morning and afternoon. Sign-ups are happening now. Also, applications for youth NABC sponsorships are now open for the July 25-27 tournament in Las Vegas. SiVY sponsorship includes \$500/youth plus assistance in applying for ACBL funding plus coaching and mentorship plus support in forming partnerships plus special prep events to learn strategy and practice. The only drawback, friends, is that you have to be age 19 or younger...guess that leaves me out!

Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

My most recent bridge slump finally ended last Friday when I came in first with Ronnie. Those periods can be discouraging, frustrating and hard on the fragile ego. Do you ever find yourself in a slump? Know you are not alone; almost everyone I interviewed had similar streaks. However, people react differently to their misfortunes.



According to Al Beckner, he usually goes home, picks a fight with his wife, picks himself off the floor and goes about his business. Jerry Nakamura says he has to figure it out every day. "I have to get counseling!", he bemoaned. Jim Bowman takes time off to review his convention card, clear his mind and has been known to change partners. "It must be them," he jested. Diane Strategos confided, "I beat myself up. That's the truth. I lose confidence. I bemoan to someone about it." Marty Rogers insists that that the opponents must have gotten together in a group, discussed her before she arrived and decided "Let's beat Marty!"

For Andi Burgdorf, it's usually just a horrible day where she wished she had stayed in bed. "Every hand was just a nightmare; you just make a million

mistakes.” Phil Schiffert claims that slumps have occurred frequently as he gets older. “I just have to attribute it to old age; I have a good excuse!” he claimed. Mary Lou Fagella joked that she loses a lot of partners when she has been slumping.

But most players such as Mary Lou have strategies for climbing out. She talks to Albert Chow. “He has great insight into hands and that helps me reason and not think by rote,” she explained. “I also pray that God improves my mind!” Eileen Ojakangas suggests that you discuss it with your partner to see if the same things are occurring all the time and you need to change something. Joy O’Dell says, “Sometimes I look for a good partner who will put me in some points!” Pat Ingoglia goes back to the basics to build up confidence. “Sometimes I think we do too much and think too much,” she explained. She also plays bridge on the computer to relax and get her back in a rhythm. Dave Wilmott suggests playing with robots to bring back discipline.

John Jefferson and partner/wife Joanne Merry “go back to the drawing board. We take a couple of days off and review our system. (Although) sometimes the cards are spitting in your face.” He continued, “You have to learn from your mistakes. We also play bidding games at home.” Dick Jones quits playing. “It happens all the time; I don’t worry about it.” Cindy Daugherty says when it gets painful, she takes a week off and goes back fresh. Gary Soules explained that some slumps occur when the opponents get lucky with bad bids and you get bad boards. “Even when I am not doing well, I always find something positive that I have learned and use that information to correct bad results.

I certainly can get discouraged, but being in a slump is usually a reflection of poor decisions and bad play. That can always be corrected over time and experience. You are usually in control of a slump. Be consistent and you will never be in a slump. Only good things happen over time when you stay in the boat. Do not get frustrated!” Desi Soto says that it helps to realize that everyone has them and that she has been through the cycle before. “You just have to be tenacious and stick with it. The big wigs go through it, too. Everyone has their own definition of a slump.”

With that I decided to check in with our Unit 505 pros Grand Life Masters Chip Martel and Bob Etter. Chip told me “For sure, everyone has slumps. Of course, as you do better, expectations change and consequently

what is considered a slump (for me, a period when I don’t win a national or world championship). A slump can be a good time for self and partnership reflections; go over sessions and hands where things didn’t go well and try to identify what is going wrong.” Bob gave his perspective on slumps. “I have been immersed in sports and games, both individual and team, my whole life. I have experienced hot streaks and slumps many times. What follows is my explanation: Imagine that you flip a coin 1000 times and record the outcome of each toss in an ordered list. You would expect to get 500 heads and 500 tails, but would likely be surprised to get exactly 500 of each.

‘There are statistical formulas that tell you how often you would get 543 or 478 heads. Now suppose you were trying to toss a head every time without cheating. If you pored through the results, you would likely find many streaks when you got 5 consecutive heads and five consecutive tails. Does that mean you were skilled when you got 5 consecutive heads and, in a slump, when you got 5 consecutive tails? I think not.

‘This is an example of randomness in the world of games. In the old days, while waiting for my bridge scores to be posted, I would match point my games in other sections. Sometimes my 48% game would yield a 60% game in another section! The same set of scores gave me a much higher score in the other section. That is another example of randomness. Here is another example. Sometimes the opponents did good things against you in one session bidding slams, staying out of games, etc. You end up with a 40% through no fault of your own. Another example, you were presented with 10 difficult decisions during a session and got 7 of them wrong.

‘That could lead to a 40% game. The other players in your position may not have had to make the same decisions-perhaps they got to double the opponents on 2 of the hands and got favorable leads on 4 others.” He added, “Every player should go over all the hands after a poor scoring session (and even a good scoring session). Perhaps mistakes can be discovered that weren’t noticed when the hands were being played. But most slumps can probably be explained by the randomness of the game as explained above. My advice is to continue to play with a positive attitude. If you have 30 more consecutive bad sessions, then you might want to look for a different hobby!”

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Not much news for this month of April, so let's play 20 Questions. Was T.S. Eliot right? Is April the cruelest month? Does it depend on how many K/J guesses you get wrong in those 30 days? If you fall for LHO's false card, does that make you an April fool? Or just a fool? Why does April sound so much prettier in French, Avril? Why does bridge sound so much better in French, piques, coeurs, carreaux, trefles, valet, dame, roi? Do April showers really bring May flowers? Is the Easter Bunny real? Could I get him to bring me a basket of onside finesses instead of chocolate eggs and jelly beans?



Congrats to our ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Linda Lyons and Judy Seropan; Club Masters Lauren Bowling, Paul Melodia, Karen Rose, and Susan Steer; Sectional Masters Lynne Crawford, Christian Goetze, Pamela Mann, Karl Mauzey, and Sally McNulty; Regional Master Lillemor Leichum, Life Masters David Achterkirchen and Bart Rhoades; Bronze Life Masters Joyce Friedman and Mark Micheli; Silver Life Master William Zhu; and Gold Life Master Robin Roche. Good going, everyone!

Welcome as always to our new members Kavita Khanna and Lynn Sedway; and transfer Bart Rhodes (Marin). Be sure to meet and greet these newcomers at the table. The unit game schedule continues with pairs games on April 27 and May 11. A lesson will be given by one of our resident experts at 10:45, followed by lunch at 11:15, and a game at noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough St. at Geary. Attendance permitting, 3 sections will be in play: open, 499er, and 99er. Something for everyone! Come one, come all; everyone is welcome.

Stay tuned for news of the triumphs of San Franciscans at the Spring NABC in next month's column. I hope I have lots to brag about.

Happy Easter, Passover, and spring, Unit 506ers! Did anyone give up bridge for Lent? Nah, I didn't think so. See you at the table.

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

As I promised in last month's column, information from the Winter Sectional at Canada College is here. Bringing the Art Weinstein Trophy home to Unit 498 were Gloria Halliday and Marie Horn. This achievement was recognized at the March 23 unit game. Congratulations to Unit 498 tournament winners: June White and Kris Tejwani, Doug Slaton and Sandra Tilch, Chung Lau and Ken Hui.

Taking over from Marc Renson as tournament coordinator, Bob Gleason assumed responsibility for running the tournament and he did a stellar job! The complexities of coordinating space, facilities, advertising, enlisting volunteers, as well as acting as host for the event were all managed with Bob's indefatigable professionalism. Kudos to Bob!

As always, many thanks are owed to the volunteers who helped set up and clean up – Loren Charlton, Gloria and Mike Halliday, Cathy Johnson, Jackie Lowenberg and Sue Papilion. We could not have done it without your help! The tournament hosted 868 players over the two day weekend. Be sure to keep this annual tournament in mind when you start thinking about 2020! It's never too early to plan ahead!

What a busy schedule for the Ted Richmond Pro/Am game held on March 23! In addition to the game, we honored the Art Weinstein trophy winners (see above); our new life Masters, Linda Duncan and Akiko Murakami, a new Sapphire Life Master, Janice Nakao, and the winners of the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney awards.

Ace of Clubs honors went to Marie Horn, Gloria Halliday, Sue Papilion, Bob Gleason, Loren Charlton, Janelle Van Rensselaer, Akiko Murakami, Yardena Arar, June White, John Lawton, Aster Wu, Fred Chasalow, Ted Richmond and Yatindra Sahae.

Mini McKenney winners were: Marie Horn, Gloria Halliday, Sue Papilion, Bob Gleason, Patricia Murray, Janelle Van Rensselaer, Daniel Sonner, Virginia Wailes, Stephanie Singer, John Lawton, Andrew Hoskins, Daniel Raider, Alfred Lee and Yatindra Sahae. Congratulations to all!

The winner of the Ted Richmond Pro/Am trophy will be cited in next month's article - again because deadlines preclude coverage here.

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

The unit game set for Saturday April 20 will feature a Springtime theme and will be a great time to sport your spring holiday attire from blooming hats to gentlemen's spats! Details will be coming within the next few days so mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Jennifer Kuhn will close out this season's unit Mentor/Mentee evening games on April 25. Response to Jennifer's inventive themed events has been positive and a good number of our players have provided great feedback on the format, the food and especially the opportunity after the game to review and critique play on selected boards. Our most heartfelt thanks to Jennifer for stepping up to the challenge of making this a vibrant, fun experience. And, to the support team of Janelle, Jackie and Loren!

Looking ahead to June, the Unit 498 Longest Day team is busily assembling silent auction and raffle items to earn funds for this worthwhile cause. This year the benefit game and all activities will be held on Saturday, June 22. The team is looking for donations of gift certificates, lunch/dinner/bridge parties, opportunities to play with a Pro, vacation getaways and any other desirable fund raising items. To donate prizes or join the committee, contact Sue Papilion: suepapilion@icloud.com or Marie Pattie: mppattie@gmail.com. Be a winner on June 22!

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Lois Hauch, Leo Joseph, Nathalie Joseph, Carmen Keenan, Debra Martinez, Alexander Schlesinger, Cheryl Schoenstein, Langston Swiecki, and Gary Zellweger. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Eileen Digiorgio, Nancy Hoeck, Jonathon Osborne, Patrick Smith, Ellen Szanto; to Club Master, Mrs. Jaleh Arbian, Marie Horn, Barbara Lewis, Douglas Slaton; to Sectional Master, Nancy Alden, Gloria Halliday, Donald Kristofferson, and Paula Linden; to Regional Master, Kathryn Barnard; to Life Master, Linda Duncan and Akiko Murakami; to Sapphire Life Master, Janice Nakao.

Be sure to check the Unit 498 website, www.unit498.com to get all up to date info on game schedules and special events.

The 2019 Rising Stars Sectional was a huge success with 25% more players, wonderful food and lots of Unit 550 winners. Co-Chairs, Carol Cowen and Gina Brown assembled a great tournament and they have our deep respect and gratitude. A sincere



“thank you” goes out to all the volunteers who helped with setup, cleanup and donations of food. Special thanks to John Benich, Gary Oing, Robert Johnson, Tom Burke, Jonni Faircrest, Jan Winham, John Wesolowski, Nancy Ficarrotta, Shirley Llacera, Bette & David Harken, and the “Kens” – Gamble, Llacera and Martin.

Saturday saw a number of our members earning top honors: Lester Loops & John Oppenheimer placed 1st in B and Hemant Vaidya & Bharat Kamdar placed 1st in C in the Rising Stars Open; Deb & Vern Dotters took 1st in A, B & C in the Rising Stars Stratified Pairs; and Laura McCabe & Gloria Reiss were 1st in A in the Rising Stars Newcomers.

Sunday was all Swiss Teams and Vern & Deb Dotters, Robert Johnson and Sydney Reuben took First in A & B.

Finishing in the top 20% of MP scorers were Deb & Vern Dotters, John Oppenheimer, Lester Loops, Robert Johnson, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Farol Henderson, Alicia Keen, Shirley Llacera, Jacci Sterling, Rick Zinman and Josh Karter.

Some special kudos to Jonni Faircrest and John Walker who participated in the District GNT and tied for 5-8th earning 7.54 Gold MP's. Good job fellows. Congratulations go out to Carol Maggipinto and Rich Hill who racked up a high score of 70.37% in a club game this month.

Milestones this month were attained by: John Walker and John Wesolowski, Regional Master; Andrew Calciano, Lester Loops and Mark Riley, Club Master; and Hemant Vaidya, Junior Master.

Our annual recognition game is April 13. This is a time to thank all our volunteers and to celebrate the 2018 winners of the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs races.

Unit 550 offers games most days and several evenings: Open Pairs games are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday daytimes, and Thursday evenings; Newcomer Pairs play on Thursday evenings (first game is free); 99er Pairs play Wednesday evenings (free lesson preceding); 199ers play Monday evenings (free lesson

preceding); 749ers are Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings (bring lunch); and Sunday afternoon is NLM/Mentor game (free lesson preceding).

Thank you to Diana Schilling, our Sunshine Lady, for keeping us informed when members and their families are ill or in need of encouragement.

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

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. To see the Unit 550 Game Calendar or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

We had an especially good spring sectional on March 9 and 10. Attendance was good with almost 52 tables Saturday morning, 43 on Saturday afternoon, and 26 teams on Sunday. We were especially pleased that so many people came from other parts of the Bay Area including from Marin, Oakland, Berkeley, Palo Alto, San Francisco and Napa/Sonoma. More surprisingly, there were 7 national champions in the crowd!

Unit 509 made a healthy profit on the event, all of which goes to support our goals of education (mentorships, lectures, etc.), community welfare (membership acknowledgement, competitions and awards, publicity, etc.), and sponsoring tournaments and unit games.

Maxine Reagh and Jane Bender Co-Chaired the event, aided by volunteers Harley Conner, Tony Jackson, Paul Hoge, Kathy Juarez, Kathy Venton, Brian Sullivan, Sara Rothmuller and Karen Weissberg. Many people contributed food to our plentiful and varied snack table. Our caddies, Freya, Aiden and Emmett, were terrific, and our players were generous at their tip jar.

On Saturday, Stratified Open Pairs winners were: 1st, Jo Ginsberg and Len Vishnevsky; 2nd, Panette Talia and Cecelia Zachar; 3rd, Nancy Gunn and Prudence Saunders; 1st in B, Amy Hansell and Lisa Euphrat. Open Pairs winners were: 1st, Tracey Bauer

and Barbara McKay; 2nd, Belinda Ledgerwood and Jack Hawks; 3rd, Roseanne Smith and Janice Kosel. In the morning, 299er Pairs winners were: 1st, Steve Marsh and Bruce Innes; 2nd, Brian and Karen Aabel; 3rd, Lynda McGuire and Robert Goetzinger; 1st in E, Sandra Hicks and Marilyn Edwardes; 1st in F, Cynthia Crawford and Sylvia Landt. In the afternoon, winners were: 1st, Marilyn Schaeffer and Renee Gaines; 2nd, Muthiah Ramanathan and Carol Fraser; 3rd, Suzanne McMahan and Agnes Reti; 1st in F, Margaret Senneff and Katherine Schram. Sunday A/X Swiss winners were Robert Thomson - Robin Roche - Crispin Barrere - Mark Ralph; 2nd, Grant Vance - Gregory Vance - Jo Ginsberg - Len Vishnevsky; 3rd, Nancy Gunn - Prudence Saunders - Sarita Mathiasen - Sara Rothmuller; 1st in AX, Larry Wyner - Thomas McGuire Jr - Paul Scheinberg - Asher Nathan. In the B/C/D Swiss, Mary Levine - Estelle Baum - Pam Sawyer - Libby Silver tied for 1/2 with Barbara Simon - Wayne Kaneko - James Reed - Carol Reed followed by Jonathan Cohen - Meryl Fischer - Eleanor Wales - Susan Campbell in 3rd.

Kathy Venton is offering Bridge Basics III — Popular Conventions on Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 to 8:30, from April 30 through June 4. This class includes Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, strong opening bids, and slam bidding. The price is \$99 for six weeks including text, \$15 for a single session, or \$10 to repeat. For more details, see <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/>.

There was only one 70%+ game in our clubs since the last Diamond in the Ruff. On March 6, Jeremy Brott and Joni Conner scored 75% at the Bridge Gallery. Congratulations!

Three Unit 509 players flew up a rank in February. Our newest Junior Master is Michele Stephens; Club Master, Lynette Erlach; and Bronze Life Master, Jim O'Brien. Way to go!

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Unit 507 members have continued success in bridge tournaments. At the San Mateo sectional, in the two-session open pairs, Diane & Lynn Shannon had a section top, as did Bill Riester and Will Watson. In single-session open



pairs, Ryan Wessels won one event, Chung Lau won another one, and Luen-Jyh Luo tied for a section top in a third. Henry Zhang had a stratification top in a limited pairs game, while George Schlinkert & Tillie Myers had a section top.

In San Mateo, Li-Chung Chen's team was first in the A strat. First in their bracket were Sarah Chen, Charlie Chen & Andrew Chen. Andy Scott's team tied for first in its bracket.

At the Santa Rosa sectional, Panette Talia had a section top.

At the Tucson regional, the team with Linda Rocha & Terry Ahern was first in its bracket. They also had a section top in a limited pairs game.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Bruce Peetz (Junior); Warren Kaplan, Tianshu Zhou (Club); Barbara Roupe, George Roupe (Sectional); Rhonda Hardy, Judith Hecht (Regional); Vera Huelbig (Advanced NABC); Andy Scott, Frank Xie, Pangjie Xu (Life); Karen Rice (Silver); Subramania Krishnamurthi (Ruby).

In last month's article I named the Unit 507 2018 leaders in the mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs masterpoint categories, so I won't repeat them here. 13 tables turned out for a unit game to honor those leaders.

The Unit Board continues its search for a site to hold our sectionals. Any tips would be appreciated, if you know of an available space with a minimum of 4,500 square feet.

In June will be elections for the Unit Board. The terms of half of the dozen Board members will end. If we have more candidates than open positions (for a change), we'll put out ballots, so think about giving back to the bridge community or nominating someone else.

Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn

Spring has sprung at the Stockton Bridge and Oak Park Senior Center Clubs. All the rain in early March was nice, but a week of 70+ degree weather and sunshine was so welcome. The Wednesday game at Oak Park has continued



to have 15+ tables so two sections are usually held with Overall Awards as well. Another funding appeal was successful in raising the money needed to buy additional bidding boxes and Bridgemates. Thank you all who donated--many for the second time. If you haven't attended recently, come check it out! The cost is only \$2 (with an annual City Rec Center membership) and Director Korey will help you find a partner if you call him at 209-933-1563.

There is a lot of good information on our unit website at StocktonBridge.org In addition to the calendar of special games and links to game results, contact information for all the games and directors is listed. There are even bridge related articles and stories and past issues of this newsletter. But the important announcement for April is that the unit game will NOT be the usual 3rd Sunday. Since that is Easter, the unit game and potluck meal will be held the week before on April 14.

Bill and Ann Nutting won the special Senior Game on March 11 with a 70.83% game. Congratulations! It is not yet known how that score will hold up at the district and national levels, but they have placed First Overall in the ACBL at least twice in the past.

Marge Walden just missed out on the Golden Age Master awards in January so I want to recognize her for passing the 100 point mark on March 14. Congratulations Marge--you did it! You will be missed at the 99er game. Nancy Lilly and Lynn Brooks, visiting from Modesto, won the March 99er event with a 72.22% game. Both are Novices and Lynn earned her very first ACBL Masterpoints in March.

Please support the Almond Valley Sectional being held in North Modesto on April 6-7. It is only a 40 minute drive from the Stockton Bridge Center (even less from Oak Park) and they have great hospitality! Lunch included both days. Silver points! They are even having 99er events in both the Pairs game on Saturday and Swiss Teams on Sunday.

The Stockton Bridge Center has not yet used money designated for Youth Education that was donated in memory of Marlene Mohr. Please contact any Board Member if you know of a young person (8-18) who loves games and might be interested in learning to play bridge with other kids and teens.

Marin Spring Sectional

Unit 508

April 13 & 14, 2019

Redwood High School Gym

395 Doherty Drive

Larkspur, CA

Saturday, April 13

In Honor of Roy Hoppe

10:00 AM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 1)*

(0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

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

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

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

Novice Game 0-5 Points, no entry fee

2:30 PM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 2)*

(0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

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

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

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

Sunday, April 14

In Honor of Lura Crossley

10:00 AM: Single Session Stratified Pairs*

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

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

* * * * *

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

Age 18 & under: Free.

Tournament Director: Lynn Yokel -- ACBL Sanction #1904054

Tournament Chair: Judy Leedy @ 415-336-6468 or jbleedy46@gmail.com

Partnerships: Andrea Ventris @ 415-699-3175 or aventris@yahoo.com

LUNCH on both days provided only with meal ticket pre-purchased at registration \$5.00 sandwich & side

Free coffee, tea & snacks

Directions:

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

Traveling 101 North: Take Lucky Dr exit (approx. 10 mi north of GGBridge). Turn right off the exit onto Redwood Hwy. Right at first signal onto Wornum Dr. Turn right on Tamal Vista at signal. Turn left on Lucky Dr at next signal. Continue left on Lucky Dr. Turn right on Doherty Dr and follow the signs to the front of Redwood High School and turn left into the west/front parking lot, which is closest to the venue (school gymnasium).

Unit 498

Intermediate/Newcomer For Non-Life Masters (NLM)



May 4 and 5, 2019
At Fattoria e Mare, 1095 Rollins Road
Burlingame, CA 94010, (650) 342-4923

Sanction 1905082

Saturday May 4, 2019	Sunday May 5, 2019
9:00 AM Stratified Pairs Single Session (a 99er section and a NLM section)	9:00 AM Swiss Teams Single Session 9:00 AM Stratified Pairs Single Session (one NLM section)
12:30 PM Lunch	No Lunch or Afternoon Sessions on Sunday
1:30 PM Stratified Pairs Single Session (one NLM section)	

Saturday morning pair game will be flighted:

- * 99er (0-19, 20-49, 50-99)
- * NLM (0-99, 100-199, 200+)

Stratifications will be determined by average MPs for the pair.

Director: Will Watson WatsonBridge@gmail.com

Tournament Coordinator & Partnerships: Bob Gleason bob.gleason@comcast.net

NOTE: As we have done over the past year, we request all participants to sign-up in advance by logging onto www.unit498.com and submitting the Reservation Form, which you will find near the top of the home page.

This will allow us to plan the tables and other accommodations in advance. If you cannot access www.unit498.com, please work with your friends or one of the directors at the Burlingame Bridge Center to sign in, or contact the tournament coordinator.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED

Entry Fees (per session): ACBL Members \$12, Current Non-members \$16, Students under 22 \$7

SATURDAY LUNCH OPTION

Fattoria e Marre will be providing lunch for a fee. Details will be posted on the reservation form. Based on responses, this may be either a box or buffet luncheon. Keep in mind that the lunch break will be one hour.

The Western Conference

SPRING FLING STAC XX

May 6-12, 2019



WESTERN CONFERENCE
SPRING FLING STAC XX

As always in your local clubs.

Clubs: Sign-up for your WC STAC games at

www.thewesternconference.com/stac/

The Largest Sectional in ACBL!

Intermediate and Newcomer Players (I/N)



Please note that there are two Gold Rush Pairs sessions every day Tuesday through Saturday at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm where you will be able to win gold points. No player can have over 750 points and the stratifications will be 0-100, 100-300 and 300-750. Look for the red diamond ♦ on the schedule to find these exclusive I/N events. Single session entries welcome.

Margi Redden and Kemble Yates will host a party on Thursday between sessions. It is always fun with food, drink and discussion of bridge hands!

I/N Coordinator: **Margi Redden** d20incoord@yahoo.com; 503-805-2103.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

There are two specially planned events for everyone to enjoy (at least the first 40 to sign up).



On **Friday, May 17**, after the second session of bridge, you will board a bus which will take you to see the hit Broadway musical HAIRSPRAY at the world famous Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. On the way you will dine on a delicious box lunch from the Café Dejeuner. Afterwards, you will board the bus to take you back to the Inn at the Commons.

Total cost per person: only \$86.25. Hold your reservation by emailing Jim Wheeler, the Tournament Manager, at jimpamw@yahoo.com by April 1st. Only the first 40 to sign up will be able to participate. Jim will collect your payment at the tournament. Checks or cash only.

You're invited to attend. . .



On **Saturday, May 18**, after the second session of bridge, you will enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres with wine pairings at *The Rogue Grape*, just a couple of blocks walk from the Inn at the Commons. Hors d'oeuvres will include a vegetable platter, roasted stuffed mushroom caps, a charcuterie board, meatballs, shrimp cocktail and crème brulee.

Total cost: \$21.25 per person. I know. Unbelievable! Again, only the first 40 lucky individuals will be able to participate. Email Jim Wheeler to secure your reservation by April 1st. Like the Ashland excursion, he will collect from you at the tournament.

Daily Lunch Specials in the Larks Restaurant at the Playing Site

Delicious salads and sandwiches for \$11 and under.

If that isn't enough, our D20 contract manager, Marilyn Vilhauer, has arranged for all bridge players at this tournament to receive 10% off their food bills (excluding lunch specials) in the restaurant at the Inn at the Commons.

Come enjoy bridge, Medford, Ashland, food and drink!!!



FIRECRACKER SUPER SECTIONAL

July 3rd to July 7th, 2019

Palo Alto Bridge Center/IFES Hall; 432A Stierlin Road, Mountain View, CA 94043

Free parking at the Bridge Center and Buddhist Temple opposite. Carpooling is encouraged.

Delicious home prepared food for sale. Morning coffee and specialty pastries daily. Sandwich style lunches with snack options on Thursday through Sunday.

Tournament hotels: We have arranged for special rates Wed.-Sat. for \$99 per night plus taxes at: Hotel Vue, 64 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040. (650) 965-0585 AND Hotel Avante. 860 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94041. (650) 940-1000. Ask for Firecracker Bridge Tournament rates or see links page at <https://paloaltobridge.org/firecracker/>

For the very latest information, go to: <https://paloaltobridge.org/firecracker/>

Come for Silver Point Fun

Pairs games for players at all levels,
including 0-5 beginner games.
Full and Compact KOs and Swiss team games.

For full schedule, see back.

2019 FIRECRACKER INFORMATION

Schedule

Events in bold face are two or more sessions

Welcome Wednesday: July 3rd

1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs

99er and 499er Pairs

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (single sessions)

Firecracker 4th: Thursday July 4

10:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs, 2 Sessions

Side Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

499er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

99er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

Compact KO (Teams) Rounds 1 & 2, 3 & 4

3:00 pm

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (Single Session)

Fantastic Friday: July 5

10:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs, (Two Single Sessions)

499er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

99er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

Bracketed KO (Teams) Rounds 1 & 2 of 4 (continues 10:00 am Sat.)

3:00 pm

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (Single Session)

Super Saturday: July 6

10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs, 2 Sessions

Bracketed KO (Teams) Rounds 3 & 4 of 4

Side Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

499er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

99er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

0-5 Beginner Pairs Free Youth Entry (Two Single Sessions)

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (Two Single Session)

Schedule (continued)

Spectacular Sunday: July 7

10:00 am and 2:15 pm

Open, 499er, 99er Pairs (2 single sessions)

10:00 am only

Free 0-5 Beginning Pairs

10:00 am & TBA:

A/X Swiss Teams (5000+/0-5000)

Bracketed B Swiss Teams (Under 3000)

Play only teams at your own level!

Tournament Information

Stratifications

Pairs by average

Open: 2000+ /2000 /750

499er: 500 / 300 / 200

99er: 100 / 50 / 20

Swiss Teams A/X 5000+ /0- 5000

BCD: 3000 / 1000 / 500

Stratifications may be adjusted at Director's discretion.

KO events may be handicapped

Table Fees:

\$12.00 per session. Must be ACBL member to play. \$4.00 additional for lapsed members. Youth (Students under 26) half price, except for the free 0-5 games on Saturday.

Tournament Chairs:

Carl Baeuerlen (cullycarl@gmail.com)

Don Cohn (retaildon@att.net)

Partnership Chair: Joni Smith (jonips@comcast.net)

Full Information:

For directions, parking details and much more, visit the Firecracker web page at <https://paloaltobridge.org/firecracker/>

District 21 Board of Directors

Unit 465	Ed Gould	ed-acbl@left.wing.org
Unit 465	Cornelia Gould	cornelia.gould@gmail.com
Unit 473	Diane Todd	ccnm8801@yahoo.com
Unit 473	Judy Robyns	whitsettrobyns@icloud.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	Karen Corburn	Kscorburn@gmail.com
Unit 499	Lyn Sacco	lyn.sacco@gmail.com
Unit 500	Shailesh Shah	srshah0345@gmail.com
Unit 500	Carla Francis	cfrancis14@sbcglobal.net
Unit 501	Art Mirin	aamirin@comcast.net
Unit 501	Pat Leary	pplleary@comcast.net
Unit 502	Carol Warren	carolwarren@mindspring.com
Unit 502	Doug Couchman	DougCouchman@sbcglobal.net
Unit 503	Prue Saunders	prue@pruesaunders.com
Unit 503	Kip Kado	kipkado@gmail.com
Unit 505	Jim Coke	jcoke@yahoo.com
Unit 505	Katherine Ewing	turtle7nt@att.net
Unit 506	Marion Robertson	mrobertson@msn.com
Unit 506	Thomas Stillman	tjsbridge@gmail.com
Unit 507	Ray Yuenger	rayyuenger@gmail.com
Unit 507	Stu Goodgold	stugo@sbcglobal.net
Unit 508	Bill Yeast	marinunit508@gmail.com
Unit 508	Tracey Bauer	tlcinsf@hotmail.com
Unit 509	Jackie Ortiz	jackieo@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@att.net
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	Susan Mazzei	samazzei@gmail.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 BARRY

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

RAY YUENGER

Executive Editor
rayyuenger@gmail.com

GRANT ROBINSON

Web Site Administrator
dist21webmaster@gmail.com