

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 2, Number 2 June 2019

District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager

We are just days away from the California Capital Regional, and the excitement is mounting! I know by the time this reaches you it will all be history. I sincerely hope all of you that attended had a great tournament!



Next up: the All Western Championships in Santa Clara, August 27- September 2. There is still room at the host hotel but it's filling fast. I'm currently arranging our overflow block at the Biltmore: more on that to come (or check the website).

Please try to remember: rather than booking randomly, check your dates before you make your reservation. I'm currently struggling with people trying to get into the hotel in Sacramento and it's so difficult (and unfair) that there are so very many cancellations prior to a tournament, the rooms simply go to waste.

If you do happen to make a reservation but can't make it, please remember to contact me (not the hotel) in case I have people on my wait-list. My email is jmom380@yahoo.com.

At any rate, the All Western is one of the best tournaments in the country and we're very excited to offer you so many choices of games! If you need to see a schedule it's available online at both the ACBL (www.acbl.org) and D21 (www.d21acbl.com) websites.

The phone number for the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara is (408) 200-1234, but I strongly recommend using the booking link on our website: www.d21acbl.com.

We have a special day for 299ers on Friday, August 30. Please mark your calendars and tell your friends! We have reduced entry fees (\$10 for one game, and only \$15 for two!), loads of extra prizes and snacks. Plus, standing by at the end of the games will be advanced/expert

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District 21 2019 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

The 2020 GNT schedule has been established. Flight B will be played concurrently with the second weekend of the Open Flight, and the Flight C in conjunction with the last weekend of the Flight A. If any Flight receives more than 16 entries, a fifth day of play will be added, exactly one week later on Sunday. Thus, if you plan to reach the finals, keep the following Sunday free!



Again this year, both the Flight B and Flight C will be eligible to send two teams to the 2020 Summer Nationals in Montreal, Quebec. This is conditional on these Flights receiving at least eight entries, a bar our district has consistently reached in recent years. Watch our D21 Website for exact dates and locations.

Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

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

Oct 5–6, 2019

Non-Life Master Sectional

Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

Nov 2–3, 2019

Castro Valley Sectional

Transfiguration Catholic Church, Castro Valley CA

Nov 9–10, 2019

Diablo Valley Fall Sectional

Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon CA

Nov 9–10, 2019

Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Nov 16–17, 2019

East Bay Fall Sectional

Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Nov 23, 2019

North American Pairs Flight B District Finals

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

Regionals

Aug 27–Sep 2, 2019

All Western Championships

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara,

Santa Clara CA

Oct 7–13, 2019

Reno/Sparks Regional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

players to ask about the hands. There will be both 99er and 299er games.

And everyone is representing their club so there are major bragging rights to gain! Game times are 1:00 and 7:00, in the Magnolia Room at the Hyatt. Don't worry if you're overqualified for this fun event, we still have loads of events for you!

On to October and the Reno/Sparks Regional, October 7-13. Many of you over the years have said you'd like a tournament where the main game times are in the morning and afternoon, and I've been listening. We are going to give this time frame a try in Reno, so if you can, please vote with your feet and show up! Game times in Reno will be 10:30 and 3:15, with an evening slot of 7:30 for those of you that like to play three times a day! We will have new team events starting daily, and Pairs events for all levels.

The Nugget is very excited about our return! We have a booking link on the website (easiest way to book), or you can call the Nugget (702) 632-7600 or (800) 648-1177.

Remember to book in the Resort Tower. Its elevators will deliver you directly to the playing area, and the beds and rooms in this newly remodeled tower are excellent.

For \$10 less a night you can choose the Casino Tower which has its base in the Casino. However, whereas the Resort Tower is smoke free, there are smoking rooms in the Casino Tower so if smoke bothers you at all choose the Resort Tower. Please contact me with any questions! See you all soon! Have an incredible summer.

Remember to make your reservations for our upcoming D21 Regionals: Santa Clara and Reno! Booking information and links can be found on our website, www.d21acbl.com.

If you make a reservation you cannot use, please consider offering it to those on my wait list. Email me at jmom380@yahoo.com.



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

RANK ADVANCES

JUNIOR MASTERS

David Anderson, Half Moon Bay CA, 498
Jeffrey Bartfeld, Sonoma CA, 512
Gayle Blum, Belvedere CA, 508
Jack Chang, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Helen Frisch, Sacramento CA, 505
David Gin, Oakland CA, 502
Marjorie Headd, Los Gatos CA, 507
Patricia Heckathorn, Clovis CA, 522
Peder Hoy, Modesto CA, 529
Sally Huffman, Sacramento CA, 505
Jill Janov, Sausalito CA, 508
Agnes Kennedy, Sacramento CA, 505
Sarah Ku, Burlingame CA, 498
Lynn Lubbock, Tiburon CA, 508
Quan Nguyen, Palo Alto CA, 503
Monica Palme, Fremont CA, 500
Sandra Petrie, Fresno CA, 522
Andrew Pichler, Carmichael CA, 505
Nicholas Schulkin, San Rafael CA, 508
Harjit Sekhon, San Martin CA, 524
Maureen Smith, Carson City NV, 465
Dennis Sullivan, Carmichael CA, 505
Patricia Sullivan, Carmichael CA, 505
Ryan Tock, Mountain View CA, 503
Betsy Todd, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Joyce Wade, Roseville CA, 505
Lynne Weatherman, Greenfield CA, 530
Debra Whitehouse, San Anselmo CA, 508

CLUB MASTERS

Jean Barry, Genoa NV, 465
George Bitner, Gilroy CA, 524
John Bowman, Placerville CA, 505
Herschel Cozine, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Marlene Farrell, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Pete Goldsmith, Hillsborough CA, 498
Raynard Jong, Livermore CA, 501
Herb Lindberg, Burlingame CA, 498
Susan Maki, Los Gatos CA, 507
Stephen Price, Reno NV, 473
Robin Rakusin, Reno NV, 473
John Shipley, San Mateo CA, 498
Marie Straube, Atherton CA, 503
Radhakishin Thawani, Sunnyvale CA, 507
Brian Zhang, Dublin CA, 501
Henry Zhang, Saratoga CA, 507
Jenny Zhang, Hayward CA, 500

SECTIONAL MASTERS

William Bakun, Burlingame CA, 498
Cynthia Birk, Reno NV, 473
Debbie Carey, Emerald Hills CA, 498
Carol Clewans, Redwood City CA, 503
Asha Desai, El Dorado Hills CA, 505
Catherine Holt, Angels Camp CA, 510
James Kaye, Roseville CA, 505
Anil Lakhwara, Reno NV, 473
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Gary Lindsey, Roseville CA, 505

Sandy OwYoung-Chu, Madera CA, 522
Yilmaz Ozturhan, San Ramon CA, 499
Mary Quinn, Sacramento CA, 505
Matthew Rode, San Jose CA, 507

REGIONAL MASTERS

Diana Lloyd, Los Altos CA, 503
Margaret Rutt, Novato CA, 508

NABC MASTERS

Sherrie Barakatt, Modesto CA, 529
Dana Daugherty, El Dorado Hills CA, 505
Leon Heller, Marina CA, 530
Carolyn Kotner, San Francisco CA, 506
Virginia Maclean, Hillsborough CA, 498
Ray Mok, Pebble Beach CA, 530

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RICHARD HEIDEMAN, SACRAMENTO CA, 505
SHEILA ROBINSON, WALNUT CREEK CA, 499
JILL WALLACE, RENO NV, 473

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Vera Baum, Los Altos CA, 503
John Engstrom, Dublin CA, 501
Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Foster City CA, 498

Debbie Machlin, Los Altos CA, 503
Sheila Robinson, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Jill Wallace, Reno NV, 473

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Lynn Magnet, San Francisco CA, 506

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Margaret Halland, San Leandro CA, 500

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Edie Wong, San Francisco CA, 498

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Lori Spaeth, Los Altos CA, 503

EMERALD LIFE MASTER

Christopher Pisarra, Lafayette CA, 499

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>
<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>
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<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

By the time you reach the bottom, you'll know if the W's are in the finals (I finished this & sent to Editor Rich right after the game). Meanwhile (to steal Stephen Colbert's tag) ...

The May 3 unit game drew 5.5 for a 24-board Howell w/sitouts for most pairs. Dick-Lamar topped it; Dexter-Gordon 2A/1B; E-me 3/4A; John Love-Bob Post 3/4A-2B.

The May 18 BBQ Swiss drew 8 teams, which Vicki Chang's crew (Don Steedman-Lewis & Nancy Voils) topped it, w/E's crew (me-Dick-Lamar) 2nd, & Ed Seputis' U502 crew (Glenn Boyce-Cathleen Otvos-Joye Sidoti) 3rd. Top B team was Marcia Mattoon's crew (U502-ers Sarla Purohit-Lois Flock-Stuart Schneck). Only 1 tie; no more than 3 blitzes, 2 of which came in the last round. Thanx to all who showed up, to our unit board members who helped out, and especially to "Master Chef" Eric, who did all the meat on Fri, as we knew the pending rain would make it impossible to grill outside day of. Only June unit game is Friday the 7th.

One transfer out (Helen Burke to U502); 2 rank advancers: Rony Tal to Sectional Master (50+), & Dan Kroll to Sapphire LM (3.5K+).

At da club, Carol Scott was April LM champ; Barbara Lanier the top NLM. Longest Day Wed Jun 19 (all the "gate" goes to ALZ charity; table fees \$7; I take no director fee – contribute extra if you so desire). Club champ game is Wed 14th; 1st of 2 NAP Qualifiers (table fees \$7) is Wed 26th – "Last Chance" is Fri 8/30.

Some sad news: Long-time board member & relief director Larry Zeni passed away May 5 from complications from a 2nd stroke he incurred in April. Per his request, there were no services, so hoist a good beer/glass of wine to him; he was an avid golfer, skier, traveler, & gourmet cook. Our condolences to Sue, his wife of 40 years, and their 2 daughters (the younger of whom looks spot-on like Sue). We'll miss him a lot – too good a guy to go so young (2 mos short of 67). Further condolences to regular (&

D21 Secretary) Sandi Davis, who lost an older sister a few days after Larry passed.

May the Sharks have survived games 6 & 7 –they'll need to be healthy before facing the well-rested Bruins. Warriors won't play again until 5/30, so they'll have a chance to get the injured guys back – time for a 3-peat.

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

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook

It's June, and a fine time to tune up our game. It's considered the top sunshine month, so share your bright smiles and your guiding light. The more experienced players, if asked, can shed a bit of glow to help others. Remember unsolicited negative advice is never well received. I've even done it myself. I hate that. It's hard to keep quiet when you see something so blatantly wrong. I know, I'm Italian. And, I call this game, "Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda.."



Also, bridge table manners is quite a kept secret, but all of us know, when the prickly pair comes to your table, or you travel to theirs, it becomes quite a dicey game. Just keep smiling.

I can't believe I'm actually writing about another Andy. It's usually Andy Fine, the sign man. Well, I'm proud to announce our newest Board Member, Andy Shockley. He's a native Tennessean, 7th generation, and graduated from the University of Tennessee. He received his degree in Logistics, and an ardent follower of all University of Tennessee sports, especially football. At age seven, Andy became a serious fan.

Andy's and his wife Carla, recently celebrated 31 years of marriage. They have two grown daughters. About four years ago, Andy started learning bridge by taking Grant Robinson's

introductory classes in Walnut Creek. He and his wife love to travel, and recently returned from a Panama Canal cruise. Can you believe they also play bridge together, and have stayed together? Amazing.

Do you need a touch-up? Help is on the way. Karen Corburn is the chair of our Unit 499 Mentoring Program. Please contact her at kscorburn@gmail.com. She'll help match mentees with qualified mentors. Karen doesn't mince words. She's here to help you bridge the gap.

Top this! The recent STAC games in May, Albert Chu and Ingrid Hsu scored big with a blast of 23.32 master points. They couldn't get enough, and won the Monday afternoon invitational game as well as the Thursday evening open game. They finished 18/19th in the entire Western Conference STAC. Also doing very well in Unit 499, and bringing home Silver, were David Terris (14.75 M.P.) and Jerry Weitzner (10.18).

Are You Ready, Set to Go: Diablo Valley Summer Sectional will be held this year at Rossmoor's Event Center, Saturday and Sunday, June 29 & 30. Lunch will be available for purchase as provided by Morucci's Deli. Early morning purchase of a ticket for lunch assures a bridge player a sandwich plus a drink and cookie. Table fees for this sectional will be \$12 for ACBL members, and \$16 for those without membership. Saturday will be Pairs play, with Sunday being Bracketed Swiss Teams. Diablo Valley sectionals are always well attended, so you won't want to miss this super-handed weekend. Besides fun-filled days, you may take home some Master Points. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Ciao, Lisa/The ShortCut Cook

East Bay

By Larry Bowerman

First and foremost, the Unit 502 Spring Sectional will take place on June 22 & 23 at

the Oakland Masonic Center (third floor), 3903 Broadway, Oakland, CA. This is always a great event, so please plan to attend. The games begin at 10:00 am each day and the table fees will be \$12.00. Lunch will be available for \$5.00 per person on both days, along with lots of good (and healthy) snacks throughout the day. There is some parking available behind the building off of Manila Avenue, otherwise street parking is your best bet, especially on Sunday when the parking meters don't require feeding.

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, there will be regularly scheduled Unit 502 games on Sunday, June 2 and Sunday, June 16 at the EBCBC. The free lunch will be served at about 11:30 am, and the games will begin at 12:00 noon.

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 games, there will be EBCBC Sunday games. In June those games will take place on June 9, 23 and 30. The games begin at 12:00 noon, and a light lunch will be served before the game. The June 9 game will be a club championship game (with extra award points).

There are three NAP Qualifier games in June: Sunday, June 2 (\$9), Monday, June 10 (\$9) and Tuesday, June 25 (\$8).

The week of June 3 to June 9 will be club championship week with extra award points available. There is also a club membership game on Wednesday, June 12 and a Swiss Teams game on Friday, June 14.

The Sunday, August 4 unit game will be held to honor the memory of Russell Rector, former Unit 502 Board Member who passed away unexpectedly in mid-April. Russell's family held a Celebration of Life gathering on May 11; many Unit 502 members attended to pay their respects. Russell was a Bronze Life Master having earned 769 masterpoints. We extend our sympathies and condolences to Russell's family. He will be missed!

Beginning in July Grant Vance, Greg Vance and David Geary will be holding Swiss Teams games on one Saturday each month. The first game will be Bracketed Swiss Teams

on Saturday, July 13 at 12:00 noon at the East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC). The second game will be High Low Swiss Teams on Saturday, August 24. Come as a pair and the highest master point pair will be teamed with the lowest master point pair, etc.

Grant Vance and Jessica Lai continued their winning ways at the Wine Valley Sectional in Sonoma in late April. Their team won the top bracket of the Swiss Teams, and they finished as the top master point winners for the tournament. Well done and congratulations!

In the April 7 unit game, Jo Levy and Robert Johnson finished in first place, Grant Vance and Jessica Lai finished second, Nancy Gunn and Sarita Mathiasen third, Sandi Davis and Roseanne Smith fourth, and Doug Couchman and Foster Tom fifth. All five pairs had games which ranged from 59.13% to 67.79%.

In the April 21 unit game Chris Chen and Andrew Sinclair finished in first place, Brian and Qiang Zhang finished second, Sarita Mathiasen and Prudence Saunders third, Grant and Greg Vance fourth, and David Snyder and Arthur Mirin fifth. Chris and Andrew had a 73.06% game! The other four pairs had games between 58.94% and 62.96%.

In the May 5 unit game Pat Leary and William Rudman, Jr finished in first place, Susan Boyers and Betty Kael finished second, Ching Chao and Joye Sidoti third, Grant Vance and Jessica Lai fourth, and John Santibanes and Tom McKelvey fifth. All five pairs had games between 57.53% and 65.71%.

Welcome to new Unit 502 members Helen Burke (transfer), Valerie Corvin, Julie Kleinbauer (transfer), Pam McBain, Toni McNulty and Wendy Szczech! When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements: Christine McMahon and Audrey Wagman to Club Master, Betty Kael to Ruby Life Master and Joye Sidoti to Gold Life Master! When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them. Kudos to all

and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

Joye Sidoti is writing the July column, so please contact her (efsjbd_ba@hotmail.com) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

Hello Everyone!

April was an interesting month with a few fun Sunday events.

First off was our Anniversary party on April 7. We have celebrated the Fresno Bridge Center's move to the Shaw location every year, but this year was extra special—it was the 10th anniversary of the move. Even more special by the fact that this year is the 75th year of bridge in Fresno.

The Board of Directors has always provided the lunch for the anniversary party, and this year decided to have an extra special Spring picnic. Don Austin brought in a barbecue, then proceeded to cook up hamburger, hot dogs, and even some fish burgers. Other members provided the accessories (e.g., chili, salads, desserts, and balloons). Fourteen tables attended the event, and it appeared to be unanimously declared a successful, fun, party. A charity game followed in which over \$140 in proceeds were collected for Pro Hospice (the facility that cared for Maggie Mahaffey during her last few months). There were 10 tables on the Open side—winners were N/S: Anthony Toto & Byron Steinert and E/W: Mark & Sally Stern (Overall Winners). We also had 4 tables in a 299er game—winners were Doris & Don Myers.

On April 28, we had a Pro-Am Swiss Teams game. This one had a little less attendance than we often have for this event, but there still were four teams created that afternoon. As we always like to see, everyone had at least one victory and received some masterpoints. The big winners (based on Victory Points) were Bill Glass

(captain), Anthony Toto, Don Austin, & Marge Field.

An upcoming big event for June is on Friday, the 21st, when we have our annual Longest Day Marathon. Though not finalized yet, it is likely we will try the five-game schedule again, starting with the 6am Individual followed by four pair games. The final schedule should already be posted by the time this article is available. Please attend one or more games and support the ACBL's fundraiser for the Alzheimers Association.

Only three pairs had 70% games in April. In Oakhurst, Corey Cole & Dana Brown, 70.37% in the Thursday Morning Open game on 4/11. The remaining two were in Fresno. Rose Boot & Bill Glass, 70.24% in the Wednesday afternoon Open game on 4/10; Laura Neville & Jim McKoane, 76.85% in the Saturday afternoon Open game on 4/20.

Hope to see you on The Longest Day!

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

Our 99ers continue to impress as they are progressing with duplicate bridge. Many more would like to learn bridge, so be an advocate, teach your friends, bring them to the club!

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.

June is busting out all over. As the hot weather comes, our "winter" friends will be returning to their homes in other parts of the country. Good-bye to Gary (New Hampshire) and to Dave and Dodie (Montana)...We will see you again next winter!

Marin

By Gail Haar

We have twelve (!) new and new to us members in our unit this month. Be sure to greet them warmly when you meet them at the table: Claire Auslen, Judy Burns, James Chen, Shirley Chen, Wendy Grossman, Judy Moore, Janet Moulin, Jane Richmond, Peter Richmond, Shirley Weiss, Lucia Whitney and Linda Cabrera. Congratulations to our members who have advanced a rank: Golda Boeck, Geoffrey Fletcher, William Mentzer (Junior Master); Sharon Call, Pamela Hoffman, Edward Kozlowki, William Moorhouse, Paul Phelps (Club Master); Gail Sickler (Regional Master); Carolyn Farren (Bronze Life Master); and Robert Chilvers (Silver Life Master). Our Big Games this month were Jerome Meislin & Lynn Pasternak (71.53%) and Alex Kinas & Cathie Hayes (71.45%). The unit team winners on May 5 were Vince Mueller - David Blohm - Loretta Bromberg - Donald Tusel and the STaC highest score at the unit game on May 12 went to Barbara Prior & Peter Sager.



Bruce Noda, unit cornerstone and Grand Life Master, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep recently. Bruce was a superb bridge player who

gladly shared his expertise with anyone who asked and one of the kindest, humblest people ever to take up the game of bridge. As one of our other players put it: "It was sad day when we lost Bruce. Everyone who met Bruce had their life brightened by his compassion and presence. He will truly be missed by the bridge community and by his many personal friends." A fund raiser will be held in the future for his non-profit, Blue Energy - see his picture and read more here:

<https://mailchi.mp/f771188789ff/blueenergys-annual-impact-report-3363873?e=92de6ed6a5>

Fuldek will host a "Longest Day" game on Wednesday June 19. Plan to play bridge and support the Alzheimer Foundation.

The annual unit election & awards party and unit game will be held on Sunday, June 30 in Terra Linda (Fuldek). Please come eat, drink and celebrate your accomplishments and those of your friends. Stay for the Stratified Pairs unit game that begins at 1 PM, and make sure to check the unit website for the slate of candidates for the board.

Have you heard about the Elvis Presley coup? It's when your left-hand opponent leads from A-Q around to your K-x; the King is no longer dead!

Sheela Wani 1st in both A/B 60.89%, and Judy Remmers & Libby Longstreth 1st in C 60.42%.

Top scores for the first half of May, Pamela & John Mayne took 1st in both A & B Divisions 69.79%, followed by Connie Arnold & Judy Remmers 1st in C. In the beginner group, Libby Longstreth & Judy Remmers took 1st in A 73.96%, and Marcia Eblen & Jaime Hamilton placed 1st in B 50%.

Sharon and Neil Von Tersch traveled to Boston to play in a regional, placing in several events, while also visiting Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. A fun time for both of them!

Jeanne Russo and Linda Kenyon are getting ready for their trip to Paris in June! I will be waiting to hear the stories when they return.

Jan and Peter left for their away time with family in Oregon and Idaho, back by now, June. They left the games in the competent hands of Barbara Page, a knowledgeable director, who took the helm and did a great job while they were gone.

While Ray is recuperating from his surgery, if you want to play in the Sunday Beginner Game, make sure you contact Barbara Page, as she is directing the games, until Ray's return, hopefully sooner than later.

Modesto/Merced/Sonora

By Gail Vick

In the latter half of April, Bruce Ruskin & Jeanne Russo won 1st in A Division 66.15%, Pamela & John Mayne placed 1st in B Division 64.35%, followed by Jim Page & Garrad Marsh, 1st in C, with a whopping 62.50%!

The Sunday Beginning/Intermediate Group was won by Jaime Hamilton & Alan Beban for 1st across the board with a resounding 66.07%.

During May, the unit had a Cinco de Mayo Pro-Am game, with food and drink to fit the occasion. Overall winners were: Raj Modi &



Monterey

By Mary Block

Remember to cast your vote for the membership of the Unit Board of Directors. Voting will continue at the Bridge Center until the annual membership meeting on Sunday, June 23. This is a unit game, with a \$5 charge for the game, hospitality and food. There will be a selection of sandwiches from Deli Delicious. Members will be recognized for achievements during the past year. This is your opportunity to find out more about what is going on with the unit and future plans.

We have several new members this month: Peter Armbrust, Diane Bozzo, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Russell Haisley, and Linda Johnson.

Welcome back to our Sunbelt members, Rosemary and Walter Blankley and Laura Quinn. There is only one rank change to report this month: Rita Sturgeon is now a Club Master.

Thanks to Barbara Svetlik, our talented artist, for painting the flowers on our boarded-up windows to give a window-box effect. If our building could express feelings, it would know how appreciated it is.

The Nationals are being held in San Francisco in November. Our unit is being asked to provide hospitality volunteers on Saturday, November 30. You will be reminded again to contact Donna Jett closer to the dates. Check out ACBL online for further tournament information. The window for making hotel reservations is open.

The May STAC results show that the big winners were Steve and Joan Little who placed first overall in the Western Conference for Friday afternoon with a 65.74% game.

Thanks to all the volunteers for the contributions of food and time to make the Lone Cypress Sectional a success. Laura Gherman and Bill Cohen deserve applause for their co-chair duties. The weather was both wonderful and horrible, but our volunteers were able to cope and the attendance was not diminished. Chuck Messenger was the top achiever with 24.42 silver points and Bill Cohen right behind with 22.34.

Although this is the last year for the Lone Cypress Sectional to be held in our Bridge Center building, the tournament will go forward.

Our website is www.montereybridgeclub.com, and our phone number is (831) 384-7800.

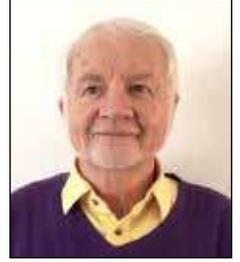
I am maru0407@comcast.net.

The website for the Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

Our sectional in April, orchestrated by Sigrid Price, was a grand success! How lucky are we to have Sigrid in our unit? She runs the sectional, teaches classes, mentors, and organizes a great unit holiday party at the



end of the year. That's just some of the things she does. I'm sure I missed a few. She did have a lot of help as Carol Fraser did a lot with the setup and Marsha Horowitz did her usual great job in the kitchen. Gerry Fox stayed until the end on Sunday putting everything away. Thanks to all who helped!

We did well in our own tournament in the Saturday Open Pair game as Sigrid & Russell Quinnell came in 3rd overall, Jim & Frances O'Brien were 5th, and Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson were 7th. There were too many first places in A, B, and C in the Sections to mention. Carolyn Loe and Gretchen Filer won the morning 299er game. All in all, we played very good bridge.

Sunday Swiss Teams games we're even better! There were 4 stratified levels of play and we won 3 of them and came in second in the other. The team of Gerry Fox, Tom Jacobson, Sigrid Price, & Russell Quinnell were 2nd in the top bracket. George & Wayne Gordon, Dan Harp, & Joanne Wegsten won the 2nd bracket. The 3rd bracket went to Carol Fraser, John Kardach, Marsha Horowitz, and I with the top score of all 4 brackets. Our lucky charm and coach Charlotte Carr helped us considerably. Malcolm Scott, Peg Remaklus, Ed Houk, & Whit Whitman won bracket 4.

For the third year in a row the tournament highlight was seeing 102-year-old Doris Leckie play 52 boards on Saturday and come back on Sunday for 49 more. Way to go Doris! Her partner on Sunday was 92-year-old Helen Herbaugh and she looked sharper than anyone else after playing both days.

There were lots of club games played in April also. There were 2 double winners in Rio Vista as Cliff & Natalie Crew won twice as did Alan Morris & John Shick. Tad Quayle & Robert Wiskotzil took the other game. In Napa it was Larry Page & Joanne Wegsten, Clyde Smith & Steve Mercer, Sigrid Price & Russell Quinnell, and Dan Harp & Richard Tebay. Carol Fraser & Joyce Vass won the lone unit game.

This is the month that Sigrid Price gets a lot of ink. She was one of two double winners in Sonoma as she picked up wins with Russell Quinnell & Lynn Blumenthal. Don Powell was the other double winner as he had first place finishes with Renate Bialy and Wayne Gordon. Other victors were Jim & Frances O'Brien, Dan Harp & Joanne Wegsten, Anita Pensler & Pat Frenaye, Vicki Chang & Don Steedman, and Clyde & Kathleen Smith.

It was great to see Eileen Holsten looking good and back at the tables after a serious medical issue. We all love you Eileen! Get healthy soon to Steve Mercer. We miss the big guy and are hoping for a speedy recovery.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

Unit 503 is gearing up for the Firecracker, our annual super sectional tournament on July 3-7 at our club and the IFES hall next door. Here is a link to our Firecracker page: <https://paloaltobridge.org/firecracker/>.

Free parking at the Bridge Center and the nearby Buddhist Temple; PLEASE don't park on the street! Delicious home-made food for sale. Entries \$12, and students (under 26) are half price. Once again we will support Second Harvest Food Bank; please help by making a donation at the Firecracker or online. In May there is a matching grant to double our fundraising impact, so donate here now: <http://fundraise.shfb.org/goto/pabc>



April/May were busy months. On April 27, participants learned tons at Robert Todd's seminars: "Slam Bidding" and "Trump Management." I was in SoCal, but my partner took great notes and we plan to control bid our way to 27-point slams, so look out, esteemed opponents!



Robert Todd with Kip Kado and Geri MacDonald

Robert said that he learned to play bridge at a young age with his parents; he didn't love the game but did love the M&Ms on the table, so he kept playing. Hmmm, I think I will try that with my grandson. (At age 5 Ethan is a whiz at Crazy8s and Uno, so we are already on our way to a wonderful bridge partnership). Thanks to all who helped, but especially Kip Kado and Gerry MacDonald who stepped up midway through the planning process.

We hosted our two-day Non-Life-Master sectional with 91.5 tables.



Organizers Anne Keyser and Ying Liu reported that folks had loads of fun and really appreciated the directors and the delicious food.



Congratulations to the 146 winners of silver master points. A new addition this year was the Swiss Butler Pairs event, which is scored in IMPs, like a team game. Jesse Liu and Jung Hu won that event with a top score of 67%.

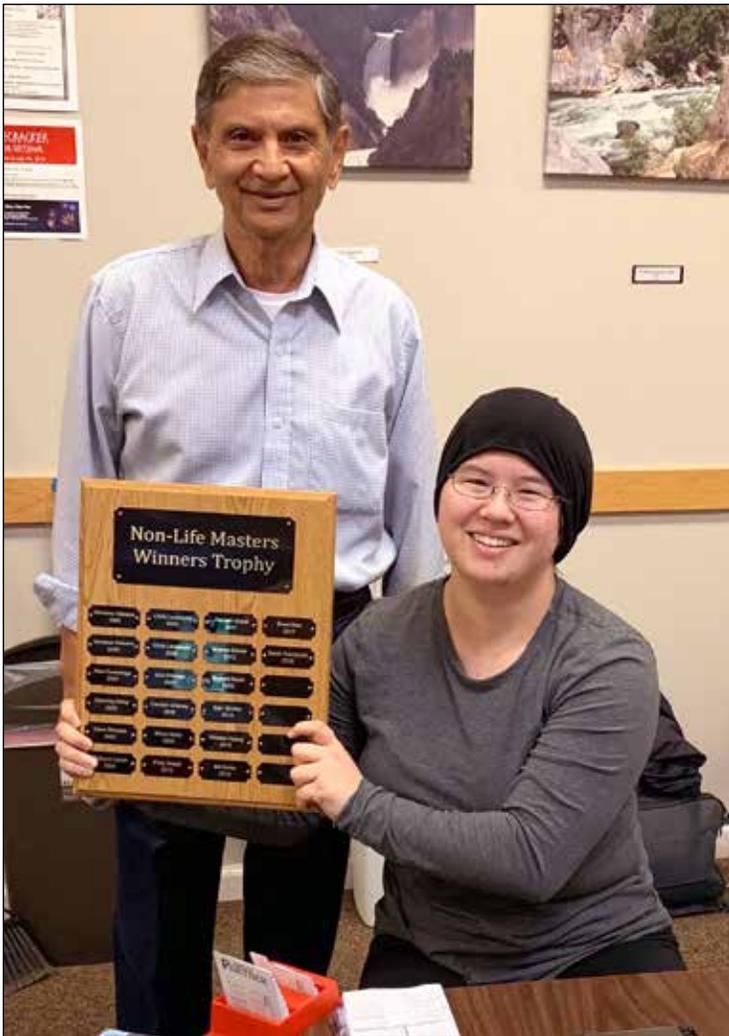
In other news, San Jose players Arthur Zhou, Michael Hu, David Zheng and Michael Zheng brought home the team trophy in the annual Bay Area High School Bridge Championship. In the pairs games, Palo Alto players Lucas Huang and Jonathan Shi placed first in the afternoon with an impressive 74%, and Jeffry Meng and Howard Peng of Cupertino won the morning game with 64%.

Do you have kids or grandchildren or friends with kids that you know would love bridge? If so, consider SiVY summer camp at the IFES hall from June 24-28. Camp is intended for kids entering 5th through 10th grades in fall who are newcomers or who already know the basics but want to advance. Last day to register is June 11. And for us too old for summer camp, check out our summer classes. Beginning Bridge and Supervised Play with Kathy Harper, Mondays, 6:45-8:45 pm, starts June 24.

Each year, our unit recognizes the players who have won the most MPs in unit games. This year the winners are (drum roll): Hansa Narasimhan (life master) and Sarah Youngquist (non-life master).



Hansa Marasimham and Dan Thatte



Sarah Youngquist and Dan Thatte

Reno

By Judith Robyns

When my husband and I were in Monterey for their regional in January, we noticed there were many young players at this tournament. On the first day, we looked over at the section next to us and saw two young boys who looked to be about six and eight. They were playing north and south. I understand they did well. It was great to see so many younger players. It is wonderful for the duplicate bridge game. That is why I want to write about our youth club.

Reno Youth Bridge was founded in 2008 and became a pilot program in the Washoe School District for after school activity. Reno Youth Bridge is a non-profit organization which is

funded by grants from ACBL and charitable donations by private entities. We are currently at three high schools, McQueen, Reed, and Reno. We also offer programs at High Desert Montessori grades 4-8 and at Beasley Elementary in Sparks. There are approximately 75 students playing bridge this year.

Reno Youth Bridge has three tournaments a year to expose the kids to the competition of a duplicate bridge game. The tournament is divided into two sections, A and C. The C section is for the students who are just learning the game of bridge. They have help from an adult bridge instructor throughout the tournament. The A section is for the more experienced and older student. They play without any guidance. Reno Youth Bridge awards monetary prizes at the end of the year to the top twenty students who have earned the most points throughout the school year. Each student receives points for attending after-school bridge lessons, Monday evening bridge, the tournaments and points for placing in the tournaments.

Two scholarships, \$1000 & \$500 are awarded to the two top students who have accumulated the most amount of points. The money is to be used to further their education after high school. The biggest challenge for Reno Youth Bridge now is twofold, finding adults to teach bridge and commit the time of teaching every week for eight months. The second challenge is finding a teacher in a school who is willing to be the bridge advisor and commit to one day a week for the after school bridge program. Some of our past scholarship recipients have been Sidney Inouye, Emma Miller, Matt Oakley and Sarah MacHarg who have all gone on to college and continue to play bridge.

These students have also played in the Youth NABC championships held over the summer in Atlanta last year and Toronto the year before. With the Youth NABC being played in Las Vegas this summer, we are hoping to encourage even more of the local high school students to participate.

Sacramento

By *Miriam Steinberg*

Bridge Impact on Your Life

For some, bridge is just a game. But for many of the 165,000 ACBL members as well as countless party bridge players it is more than that, impacting lives in countless ways.



Most of the bridge players I interviewed for this story have intense feelings about the game. For Carl Oeser, it is integral to his existence. “It’s always been my passion; I teach, play and run the game. I live the dream; I’ve fit in my whole life around bridge.” He even got his kids involved in being caddies. Dana Daugherty also admitted that bridge is her life and gets very upset when she can’t play. Judy Orchard added, “It seems like I play nothing but bridge; I have a real passion for it!”

Cynthia Douglas echoed Judy’s sentiment: “That’s what I live for now; I just want to have fun.” And while Jean Tull had to stop playing for seven years while caring for her husband, she came back to the game after his passing and said it’s the best thing in her life. “I got back with people and my brain is functioning better!”

For some, bridge is what motivates them. Barney Neufeld said it keeps him sane and gives him a reason to get up in the morning. “I don’t know what I’d do if I didn’t play bridge,” he confessed.

Others, like Diane Strategos, were so driven to play bridge, it interfered in their education. “Back in college, it almost caused me to fail,” Strategos shared. “Because I was playing so much bridge in the wee hours, I missed a lot of classes.” David Britton-Ohl missed a lot of his classes at UCLA as well. To top it off, Carl Oeser admitted he was playing so much bridge, he was barely able to get a degree!

Many players value the friendships and sense of community bridge promotes. Eileen Ojakangas is still friends with some of the

people she met through bridge from when she moved to Davis 48 years ago. She has traveled all over the world with one of these friends on bridge cruises, and still even plays with a dear friend who is losing her memory.

Barbara Sommervil pointed out that if you move somewhere, you can always find a game and make new friends. Katherine Ewing benefitted from this when she and her husband relocated to St. Petersburg, Florida. It gave her an opportunity to meet the locals and kept her from becoming lonely. And since Katherine’s husband has passed away, the bridge community has reached out to her. “It’s like a big family,” she explained, “Not just locally, but nationally, even internationally.”

Many people have even met spouses and partners through bridge. For example, Carl met both of his wives and all but one girlfriend through bridge; Dick Jones met all of his wives as well. Some people even split up as a result of contentious partnerships!

Brian Mansunaga feels that bridge connects him to some of the most brilliant and educated people in the world. And playing bridge develops a bond with others that “is instantly formed and can last a lifetime.” For Eileen Hayes, it is rewarding that she has made many new friends outside her comfort zone.

Such an eclectic group of players fills a bridge game: doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, professors, computer scientists, state workers, real estate agents, travel agents, air traffic controllers, aerobics instructors, cab drivers, law enforcement officers, homemakers, professional gamblers and many other professions make up our community.

Bridge affects everyone in a variety of other ways. Mary Lou Faggella is happy that it gives her something to do besides the ironing. “It takes me outside of myself; it’s an escape,” she explained. The “super seniors” inspire Eileen Hayes for their brain power and stick-to-it attitude. For Brian, it is an endless quest for personal validation. Playing also humbles him

and tests his tenacity. For Dick Jones, winning has bolstered his ego. “I wasn’t any good at anything [else],” he confessed. “Without bridge, what would I have done?” Playing bridge also pushes people to set goals, such as trying to achieve various levels of Life Master and even Grand Life Master.

Katherine Ewing originally set out to be one of the best women players in the U.S. But after realizing what she would have to give up to reach that goal, she revised her goal to becoming just a Life Master and being the best partner someone could have.

Many players commented on how much bridge stimulates their minds. For some players, this helped them in their careers or led them to start entirely new ones. David Britton-Ohl claims it sharpened his mental and quantitative skills, which later helped him in the field of engineering. After her retirement, Roz Flynn was recruited to help a group of ladies improve their game. She loved being a bridge educator so much, she launched a new career teaching bridge to others.

Gary Soules shared the most poignant story of all about how bridge has impacted his life. He was kind enough to share it with our readers: “I reflect on my youth and realize if bridge had not been in my life I would not have had the distraction needed to help me avoid the negativity of the world around me at that time. Being number eight in the Vietnam draft caused me stress. And while in college getting injured (which ended any football career) was depressing. Instead of drifting heavily into drugs to help eliminate my self-pity, I was able to maintain my competitive need and totally used bridge as the ultimate escape.”

How has bridge impacted your life?

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

April showers brought May deluges to SF this year – whoever thought it would pour down rain on the Bay to Breakers? – but now it’s finally summer. Summer brings us a deluge of bridge opportunities!



First up is our always terrific San Francisco Summer Sectional. The tournament will be held on June 8-9 at our usual great location, the Janet Pomeroy Center near Lake Merced and the zoo. Look for our ad elsewhere in this issue for all the info. We always need volunteers to help out, so if you can lend a hand, please do. No task is too small. Contact a unit board member at www.unit506.org, or just show up and pitch in. Unit 506ers, be there in force, ready to play!

Next comes a terrific opportunity to do good for yourself and for others: the Longest Day, the ACBL’s annual charity fundraiser for the Alzheimer’s Association. Longest Day games will be held at various clubs during the week of June 17. We all know that bridge is bench presses for your brain, so come get some mental exercise, stave off those senior moments, raise funds for a good cause, and celebrate the summer solstice.

Summer also brings us another North American Pairs season. NAP qualifying games will be held at various SF clubs from June through August. Check the club websites (available through www.unit506.org) for dates and times. The club qualifiers are the first level of the NAP.

Keep winning through all three levels, and you will represent District 21 in the national finals at the 2020 Spring NABC in Columbus, Ohio. Several Unit 506ers have made it to the national finals in the last few years – you could be next! Start your climb to fame and glory here at your favorite club.

The unit game schedule goes on hiatus this month in deference to the sectional. Unit games resume on July 13 and August 10. Lesson at 10:45, lunch at 11:30, game at noon, at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1111 Gough at Geary. All are welcome.

Once again, reports of the impending demise of bridge are greatly exaggerated.

QuickTricks' annual Pro/Am game last month was a smashing success, with 30.5 tables in play. The crowd ranged from Platinum and Diamond Life Masters to brand new beginners and every level in between, and everyone had a terrific time. The club was particularly excited to welcome four students from the Center for Bridge Education program, Nancy Yu and siblings Helen, Nathan, and Chloe Chow, all under the age of thirteen. Thanks to all the pros who volunteered their time and everyone at the club who made it happen.

Further proof that bridge is alive and well: Unit 506 grew a bumper crop of new members this month. Welcome to Alice Allick, Janet Fitzpatrick, Anthony Guan, Eric Guan, Alexandra Hendrickson, Keith Lin, Pamela Macy, Kristine Therian, Matthew Therian, and Edmund Tso; and to transfers Deihleen Claffey (San Mateo) and Marko Posnar (Seattle). Say hello and welcome to these newcomers when you meet them at the table.

Kudos as always to Unit 506's ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Daniel Bergerac, Jennifer Caulfield, and Margo Leahy; Club Master Fataneh Scampa; Regional Master Sunil Singh; Advanced NABC Master Robert McHugh, and Gold Life Master Richard Bellerose. Well played, all!

Hope you are reading this poolside at the Sacramento Regional. Next month's column will feature the usual shameless bragging about the exploits of San Franciscans at the SF Sectional and the regional. See you at the table or by the pool.

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

The San Mateo Unit 498 Spring NLM tournament is now in the history books and merits high praise for the fine job done by tournament co-coordinator, Bob Gleason. Over the two-day tournament Masterpoints were won by players representing other units as well as our own 498. Representing the home unit and bringing home silver were Barbara & James Curry; Aaron Mayerson & Wesley

May; Gregory Gauthier & Robyn Lee; Kenneth Hui & Siuling Ku; Bob Gleason & Lori Kiefer; Joy Venosa & Sue Papilion; Mike Dotterweich & Robert Chang; Kit Morse & Sharon Sloan; Jo Streich & Virginia Zapitz; Kathryn Barnard & Penelope Sibun; Carol Lashman & Nancy Hoeck; Jeanne Ulrich & Suzanne Vuko. If I missed anyone, please forgive me and congratulations to all!

Jennifer Kuhn reports that high games were recorded at her club in April: on April 17, Bob Gleason and Kit Morse scored a noteworthy 71%; on April 25, Bob Gleason and Frank Yeh scored an impressive 73%. The name Bob Gleason seems to appear frequently in this column. From his work as tournament coordinator to his selfless volunteering to partner with newer players, Bob is a terrific asset to our unit. Thank you Bob.

Moving on to upcoming events, the Longest Day (LD) activities are in full swing. Last month's column mentioned some of the raffle prizes and silent auction items to be awarded at the June 22 game at Fattoria. The list of prizes is growing and now also includes a sanctioned game and lunch for 12; Giants game tickets; a sailing excursion on the Bay; restaurant and retail gift certificates; play with a Pro; the list continues to grow. The LD team will be selling raffle tickets at club games and welcomes any items which you might like to contribute to the prize selections. Information on all of the day's activities and prizes can be found at <https://www.unit498.com/the-longest-day/>.

In addition to the prizes, the hardworking LD team tells us that the game that day will culminate in a special treat - live music, bar bites and No-Host bar immediately following the game with the day closing out with the announcement of the silent auction winners. If you haven't made plans to attend that day's festivities, do so now as seating is limited. The day starts with 10:30 registration; 11:00 lunch; 11:45 game; approximately 3:30 bar bites and no-host bar while shopping at the silent auction; 5:00 auction close and winners announced. Look for your e-mail invitation or contact Fran Gaura at fishscales@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

Jennifer Kuhn advises that her weekly games on July 3 and 4 and July 24 and 25 will not be held in

order that players can participate in Independence Day observances, and can play in the Firecracker Sectional and the Las Vegas National tournaments. Thanks for the update, Jennifer.

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Kathleen Hohalek, Robert Waterman, Djuna Woods and Argenta Price. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Carl Ebeling, Diane Piedemonte, Bebe Pierce; to Club Master, Melvin Pincus; to Regional Master, Devlin Delaney.

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

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

I must say that I'm loving going to the Bridge Center these past few months and a big reason is Mark Wainer's amazing photographs. They are bright and colorful and a little bit mystifying. I've said it before, but must say it again, thank you Mark for your beautiful and generous exhibit. Thanks to Joanne Brown, Shirley Llacera and Kris Smith who call themselves the "Wall Committee" (still loving that name; it's timely in a disconcerting way).

It's always nice to be able to welcome new members to the Santa Cruz Bridge Center. Hello



to Susan Brackenbury, Samara Kemp, and Mary Maclellan.

Milestones to celebrate this month were attained by: Carroll Mayer, Sectional Master; Eric Stolzberg, Club Master; Kenneth Girouard & Jared Jacobs, Junior Masters. High scores were earned by: Andrew & Marilyn Calciano, 70%; and Kenneth Girouard & Lou Browning, 71.22%. Great percentages – congratulations.

Unit 550 offers games most days and several evenings: Open Pairs games are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, the first Thursday, and Friday daytimes, as well as 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 the second and third Thursday mornings (bring lunch); the fourth Thursday morning is an Open Swiss, and Sunday afternoons are NLM/Mentor game (free lesson preceding).

Our unit game will be on Saturday, June 8 at 10 a.m. and don't forget to bring a lunch. Paid lessons are also available from time to time. Check the "Learn Bridge/Classes" link on our website and contact the individual instructors. Nancy Wainer and Bette Harken both offer Beginner Bridge lessons; Sydney Reuben has a Mentored Group for beginners; Pam Benz offers Supervised Play for Novices and Re-entry players; and Ken Gamble offers Expert at Your Elbow for Beginners and Bid/Play for low-intermediate players. Check the "Learn Bridge" link on our website for contact information.

Unit 550 now has a presence on Nextdoor.com, a great way 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. Also, be sure to visit our Facebook page.

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

Our big news this month at Unit 509 is all the work we see being done in preparation for our Longest Day raffle, silent auction, and bridge games. Our hardest workers for this event are Jan Lee, Stephanie Poley, Kathy Juarez, Cathy Netz, and Kathy Venton. Our Longest Day bridge games will be Friday, June 21, at the Bridge Gallery and Saturday, June 22, at the Petaluma Bridge Club. Come join us! We will treat you well!

We were treated to two first-class bridge lessons at the Bridge Gallery by NABC champions Sylvia Shi and Cris Barrere in May. Sylvia Shi taught a class titled Opening Leads Against Suit Contracts on May 5. The class was simple and elegant as are all Sylvia's classes. I plan to change my opening leads just a little bit and look forward to better results at the club. Cris Barrere's class on May 20 was titled Get Your Blue Card Working: All About the Redouble on May 19. Unfortunately I could not attend, but one of my partners did and sent me copies of the handout. One of the uses of Redouble is listed as "Poker: A bluff to stampede or bully opponents." I wish I had been in the room when Cris gave examples for that one.

We had two unit games in May. On May 5, first E/W and first overall in A, B, and C were Hans Van Boldrik and Roy Redlich. Great work, fellas. First N/S in A were Patricia Hertz and Larry Spanier, in B were Brian Sullivan and Meryl Fischer, and in C were Conrad Larkin and Lawson James. In our May 19 unit game, first overall were David Pankratz and Kathy Venton, and first in B were Laurie Vree and Kim Morris.

On Sunday, June 9, we will hold our unit game at the Petaluma Bridge Club. We are fortunate to have the wonderful Cris Barrere teaching about bidding minors. I am very excited because I see so many of our top players bid and make minor suit slams when everyone else in the room is in 3NT. I'd like to join that club! Cris' lesson is paid for by Unit 509. Following the class,

we will have lunch and our June Open Stratified Pairs unit game. Cris' class is from 10:30 to 12:30; the unit game, at 1 p.m. Come for one or come for both, but come to Petaluma in June. For directions, see <http://www.petalumabridgeclub.com/directions/>.

We had only one big game since our last report. At the Bridge Gallery, Jim and Judy Duport, racked up 73.33% on April 24. Excellent!

In April, we had 4 players move up in rank. Our 3 new Club Masters are Rebecca Eddy, Ben Kutnick, and Eileen Kutnick. Our new Bronze Life Master is Phil Essig. Way to go!

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Summer is coming. On Sunday, July 14, Unit 507 will hold its annual member appreciation pairs unit game, again in the Roosevelt Room of the Campbell Community Center. You can sign up for the potluck dinner at the San Jose Bridge Center. The game is free to members of Unit 507. There is also a membership meeting during the dinner with no agenda as yet. Plan to begin dinner at 5 p.m.



Looking back on recent successes of unit members, at the Gatlinburg regional, Tony Barre's Swiss team prevailed in their bracket.

At the Wine Valley Sectional in Sonoma, Stephen Tu won the two-session open pairs, while Ashwini Datar & Vilas Namjoshi were first in their stratification.

In the Bay Area High School competition, the team with Arthur Zhou, David Zheng & Michael Zheng placed first. Jeffrey Meng was first in a pairs game.

In the Burlingame I/N sectional, Prince Kohli, Rakesh Gupta, Rajeev Gupta & Manoj Thawani won the team event. Roy Tsai & Marie Chong won a pairs game, while Kayden Ge had a strat top and Joan & George Schlinkert had a section top.

In the Mountain View I/N sectional, Joanne

Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn

Cornbleet won two pairs games, one with Linda Kenigsberg. Pradeep Verma & Bina Thadani had a strat top, and Linda Kenigsberg & Tillie Myers had a section top in another game. Renee Cantu won a pairs game and had a strat top in another pairs game. Shrikant Sathe had a strat top in another pairs game, while Pradeep Verma & Meena Oza had a section top, as did Susan Dietz.

Also in the Mountain View I/N sectional, a Swiss team with Brandon Ge & Min Bai was first in their strat as was Yin Lin's team. Topping their strat in another Swiss match were Brandon Ge, Kayden Ge, Andrew Chen & Charlie Chen.

At the Monterey sectional, the Swiss team with Elenalani Lam & Dorr Clark placed first. Pangjie Xu won an open pairs game. Stephen Tu had a section top in another pairs game.

During the May Sectional Tournament at Clubs, the following unit members had games of 65% or better: Kevin Rosenberg (twice), Wanwan Ren, Will Watson, Arif Janjua & Clark Millikan (overall 1st), Mindy Foos & Michael Fleisher (overall 2nd), Marie Chong & Sumi Minami, Joanne Cornbleet, Michael Bodell (overall 3rd), and Panette Talia & Jack Verson.

Congratulations to our unit's newest Masters: Dorsey Braunstein, Beryl Greenberg, Herm Greenberg, John Stremel, Kathy Vita (Junior); Charlie Chen, Jeanmarie Mariadassou (Club); Joanne Cornbleet (NABC); Donghui Lu (Advanced NABC); Judy Kaplan (Life); Anthony Trebaol (Sapphire).

I'm saddened to report the passing of Don Nemiro, a long-time member of Unit 507 with close to 16,000 masterpoints. I'm sure many have memories of Don. He was a tough competitor, but he was very concerned about the future of Unit 507 and gave me as Unit President helpful suggestions.

The Stockton Bridge Center (SBC) monthly potluck game was briefly interrupted by a severe hailstorm that left lawns, parking lots and roofs looking like it snowed! But of course we played on and dealt with the flooded streets on the way home. By the next morning roads were dry and we were back for another membership appreciation game.



BIG news about Sundays: Beginning June 2 the SBC will hold a game each week at 1:00 p.m. and you can park anywhere. No lunch will be served but snacks are available and players may bring desserts to share if desired. The 3rd Sunday will remain the monthly potluck game.

The May STaC games in Stockton produced many winners at the Western Conference level. Those receiving extra points for high scores in the Open Games were Usha Bansal and Barbara Smart on Monday, and Bill and Ann Nutting for placing FIRST overall on Sunday. Terry Nagode, Elyse Trainor, Darlene Barnes and Susan Barnes received upgraded points in C.

Tuesday's 99er game provided extra points from the Western Conference to Peter Gannon and Miriam Rooney who placed first! It was the first silver points for each of them and Miriam joined the ACBL just that morning! Other first time silver winners were Mary Westin and Fran Tabak, Mikki Kindelberger and Carole Seed. More experienced players adding to their silver were Judy Tillinghast and Kathryn Odell, Aurene Schene and Jerry Grisler, and Nelda Smith and Maria Uriz, who returned after months away due to health issues. So good to see her back.

Thursday's intermediate game sent Jerry Baba and Jon Bearg to the TOP of the Western Conference leaderboard. Also scoring high enough for extra points were Francie Gillies, Paula Monroe, Maggie Kolze and Thanga Navaratnam. Congratulations to all the Silver winners.

We held a moment of silence on May 15 to

remember our long time member Norma Peterson who died unexpectedly 36 hours earlier while recovering from a brief illness. She had recently celebrated her 95th birthday over several bridge days at the SBC, placing first on one of them. Norma, a former Nursing Director and Ruby Life Master had been profiled in a past issue of the Forum. Some lovely symbolic calla lilies were placed at “her” table for that next Friday game. In lieu of a funeral, her family will be catering the July 21 Sunday potluck game as a celebration of her life.

You may have seen ads on the ACBL homepage. There is a Worldwide Bridge Contest on Friday, June 7, and SBC is a participating site. Play against the world’s best players (and us normal folks) for only \$8. Hand records with analyses will be provided electronically to all participants afterwards. Big

awards at club, district, and international levels.

The Longest Day fund-raising game will be held at the SBC on Monday, June 17. Still \$8 but please think about additional donations via check to “Alzheimer’s Association” on the day of the game. You can also donate via credit card online on our team page which is under my name: http://act.alz.org/goto/stockton_bridge

If you haven’t been to the SBC in awhile, please check it out. I believe our club has become even more friendly over the past 4 years, with more experienced players accepting games with newcomers and helping others learn the ropes. The facilities have been spruced up and lunch is included on all weekdays thanks to coordination by Cissy Hilken. Accommodations for special player needs will be made whenever possible. Come join the fun at SBC and Oak Park Bridge Clubs.

Guess whose sectionals will have more tables this year? All of them who placed ads in *Diamond in the Ruff*. Check out the next page and find out who thought ahead...

web site: www.eastbayunit-502.com



East Bay Summer Sectional

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

Saturday June 22, 2019

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

Strati-flighted Pairs A/X 3000+

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

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

Sunday June 23, 2019

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

"BARBARA HARMON Bracketed Swiss" -- 20VP scale

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

Teams must play both sessions.

All brackets except the bottom will play 7 rounds, 7 boards;

Bottom bracket plays 7 rounds, 6 boards.

Lunch provided each day for \$5

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

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

DIRECTIONS:

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

Located seven blocks from MacArthur BART.

Partnerships: *Estelle Baum (510) 541-5195/dominodog@aol.com*

Information: *libbysilver@yahoo.com*



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