

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 2, Number 8 December 2019

Vice-Presidential Goodbye

by Ray Yuenger

It's already time for my valedictory column as Vice-President of District 21 ("D21"). Time seems to have flown in the two years I've served, but then again the D21 Board meets only three times a year in connection with the Monterey, Sacramento, and Santa Clara regionals, so you could say my duties were to attend six meetings in two years. Actually, it was double that, 12 meetings, because the Vice-President is automatically a member of D21's Executive Committee. The "ExCom" (as it's termed) is intended, according to the D21 Bylaws, "to provide advice, counsel, guidance, and support to the President in accomplishing his/her duties." The ExCom meets the evening before Board meetings to provide previews of the progress of committees, the current status of the District, and identify any issues to be resolved by the full Board.

As Vice-President ("Vice President" is also correct according to the Bylaws), I would have presided at any D21 meetings in the President's absence, but fortunately Tom Pajak has been able to conduct all meetings as President. While I didn't know Tom before we began working together, I've been very impressed by his calm and steady hand at the helm in two years as

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Double Dummy Movie

By Yardena Arar

A San Francisco screening of John McAllister's film, *Double Dummy*, started out as an effort to interest more young people in the game. But it wound up as more of a celebration of the local bridge community – and particularly the students and teachers of the Center for Bridge Education (CBE), the Bay Area organization that seeks to bring new players into the game.

Several dozen bridge aficionados of all ages and skill levels—and even a few interested non-players—came to the late afternoon/early evening screening at a theater near the Stonestown shopping center on the west side of town. The Sunset Bridge Club, which holds its games nearby and is run by Unit 506 President Tom Stillman, sponsored the event, which was also heavily promoted by CBE members. Organizers reported that more than 150 tickets were sold, many of them to an anonymous benefactor who subsidized their distribution to young players and their families.

The film chronicles the experiences of the USA 1 team (three partnerships and one non-playing captain) at the World Youth Championships in 2012, while also focusing on the personal stories of team members and their families and mentors. Several members

Continued on Page 4

Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

Dec 6–8, 2019

Unit 505 Winter Sectional

Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Dec 9–15, 2019

Great Western Holiday STaC

Local clubs

Jan 4–5, 2020

North American Pairs Flights A & C District Finals

Fattoria e Mare Restaurant, Burlingame CA

Jan 18–19, 2020

San Francisco Sectional

Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jan 25–26, 2020

Livermore Valley Sectional

Christensen Middle School, Livermore CA

Jan 25–26, 2020

Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Feb 8–9, 2020

GNT Championship Flight District Final

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

Feb 15–16, 2020

GNT Championship Flight District Final

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View CA

Feb 15–16, 2020

Grand National Teams Flight B District Final

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View CA

Feb 22–23, 2020

San Mateo County Winter Sectional

Cañada College, Redwood City CA

Mar 7–8, 2020

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Mar 28–29, 2020

Rising Stars I/N Sectional

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Apr 4–5, 2020

Almond Valley Sectional

Homewood Village Clubhouse, Modesto CA

Apr 11–12, 2020

(continues May 9–10 in Oakland)

Grand National Teams Flight A District Final

San Jose Bridge Center, San Jose CA

Apr 18–19, 2020

Marin Spring Sectional Unit 508

Redwood High School Gym, Larkspur CA

Apr 25–26, 2020

Diablo Valley Spring Sectional

Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon CA

May 1–3, 2020

Sacramento Unit 505 Spring Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

May 2–3, 2020

Burlingame NLM Sectional

Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

May 4–10, 2020

Western Conference Spring Fling STaC

Local clubs

May 9–10, 2020

(continued from Apr 11–12; continues May 17 if needed)

Grand National Teams Flight A & C District Final

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

May 15–17, 2020

Monterey Lone Cypress Sectional

Monterey Bridge Center, Marina CA

May 16–17, 2020

Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Regionals

Jan 6–12, 2020

Monterey Clambake Regional

Hyatt Regency, Monterey CA

Mar 14–15, 2020

NLM Regional

Palo Alto Bridge Center

Mountain View CA

May 25–31, 2020

California Capital Regional

DoubleTree, Sacramento CA

President. Fortunately, as immediate past President, Tom will continue to serve on the ExCom according to the Bylaws and provide his wise guidance in the future.

As usual, I'll continue this column with news from my other positions with D21.

Disciplinary Chair

I'll be stepping down as D21 Disciplinary Chair in early January 2020 if I'm elected D21 President, which is the tradition for existing Vice-Presidents. I was appointed the Disciplinary Chair in 2008 when the ACBL asked the District to conduct a hearing on some pending claims. Since that hearing, I haven't had to convene another committee to conduct any further hearings. There was a charge that I was able to resolve through a negotiated resolution, when the charged party was willing to stipulate to misconduct and to accept the discipline recommended in the ACBL's Code of Disciplinary Regulations ("CDR"). The main function of Disciplinary Chair has been to provide advice to unit officials and D21 members about how to proceed with a variety of potential disciplinary issues. In the last couple of months, I did have some very interesting potential complaints (which must remain confidential) that required me to compose nine pages of advice, for which the potential complainant thanked me.

The ACBL does have a very elaborate 89-page CDR, but it takes some reading to understand the limits of the jurisdictions of different disciplinary committees at the unit, district, and national levels. The CDR doesn't describe the authority of club directors in running their own games, and there is a separate set of regulations applicable to recorders at the different levels. Having previously served as a unit disciplinary chair, I'd like to think that

some of my advice was helpful to those who contacted me.

The role of Disciplinary Chair will be expanding in January 2020. As I explained in my last column in the August newsletter, the ACBL has shifted the responsibilities of Unit Recorders and Unit Disciplinary Chairs. The rationale is that it is easier for the National Recorder to train the Recorders and Disciplinary Chairs of 25 districts than those officials from each of 300 units. This expansion may be more theoretical than real, however, as my unit's Disciplinary Chair has had no complaints to handle for probably over a decade.

I'll repeat from my last column, the D21 Recorder will be able to appoint one or more Assistant Recorders. So if you'd like your unit's Recorder to continue in a similar position, please notify D21 Recorder Kate Hill. I will add that no one has yet volunteered to serve as D21 Disciplinary Chair, so I'd like to hear any recommendations you have for filling my shoes.

Newsletter Executive Editor

D21 launched a monthly newsletter in May 2018 when one of the three Districts that contributed to the publication of the Contract Bridge Forum pulled out of the coalition. The two remaining districts decided we couldn't keep paying the cost of printing and mailing thousands of print magazines every month, so the new district newsletter started as an electronic edition called the Diamond in the Ruff.

From the Forum, we already had a line-up of columnists who report the monthly news from their units (with a few of the District's 21 units missing in action) and an editor, Rich Luttrell, who compiles the unit columns, sectional and regional ads, and other content for the publisher. What we needed and found was a publisher with experience in electronic bridge

newsletters and a unit officer who would keep an eye on this new publication. I volunteered to do so at the June 2018 D21 meeting. My duties have evolved since then. It turned out the old publisher was the one who composed the list of regional winners, so I assumed that duty. Someone has to compose a monthly email to distribute the newsletter, so I assumed that duty. Decisions needed to be made about what to charge for sectional ads now that space wasn't as limited as in a print edition. Later, the new publisher mentioned that one of his other newsletters listed the rank advances in the district, so I assumed the duty of compiling that list. I wasn't sure what I'd volunteered to do initially except to help as needed, so that's what I've been doing. Eventually I was named the Executive Editor by D21.

I regularly solicit feedback about the contents and appearance of the newsletter and some changes have come right from the suggestions of readers. There will be more questions to be answered in the future. Does coordinating a monthly newsletter make sense any more or should we maybe just publish various columns on the D21 website as soon as they are written? As a unit columnist I know I've occasionally had difficulty meeting publication deadlines when a local event will be completed a day or two later.

When I use Pianola to distribute the latest edition, I get a notification of how many emails have been sent. In February 2019, I was told that 5,656 emails were sent, the lowest number since I started tracking them in November of 2018. In July 2019, the number inexplicably increased to 6,935. Last month's email went to 6,834 individual addresses. However, using the ACBL's version of Pianola, I am unable to see to whom these emails were sent. Nor do I have any way of seeing who is opening the messages or who is reading the newsletter. I hope to conduct a survey to get some answers

to these questions to see if I am wisely investing my time in helping compose the monthly newsletter.

I do hear from some people who complain about not receiving the newsletter. In my last article in August 2019, I explained in some detail about how your email service might be blocking our mass mailing as spam. There are steps you can take to end this blockage, which I explained in that column. I'd like everyone who wants to read the newsletter to receive it, but I'd like to know how many people are reading it of the 6,800 addressees of this message in a bottle.

In the future, you'll be hearing from me in different capacities, but no longer as Vice-President or Disciplinary Chair. Both positions have been educational and worthwhile, so I say that with some regret.

Double Dummy

From Page 1

of Unit 506 who attended the screening remembered one of the team members, Adam Kaplan, from when he lived (briefly) in San Francisco and played at the Quicktricks bridge club in the Castro.

Afterwards, several members of the CBE talked about their own experiences. Nancy Yu, 10, said she competes in an array of events, including unit games, online games, and the youth NABC—which is all the more remarkable because her parents don't play bridge. She said she enjoys the partnership aspects of bridge, especially the communication through bidding and signals. "It's like bridge is its own language," she said. As for the film, she said, "I liked the way they worked as a team, and not just a partnership."

Brandon Wong, 25, a former CBE student who now occasionally teaches, said the film was "eye-opening" in its depiction of bridge as more than "just a game. It has so much potential for connection beyond the table. It

really is a great way to meet people from all walks of life.”

Wong said he has made some good friends through the game. Some non-players who joined Brandon and several other players at dinner after the screening said they better understood the attraction of bridge, he said. “Now that I’m older, I really appreciate that aspect of it.”

CBE Boardmember Deborah Drysdale enjoyed hearing about other organizations that help young players—and the contributions they make to the greater



Chloe Chow and Nancy Yu enjoy a snack at the screening of Double Dummy.

community. “Our kids, our community,” was a refrain she picked up from the film.

In supporting the event, Drysdale said, “we wanted to gather the bridge community, young and old, new and seasoned, to watch a movie about young people playing bridge.”

She continued, “We hoped folks would encourage their friends, whatever age, to play, countering the impression bridge is mostly for old people. Bottom line is that playing bridge is like playing ‘war’ with a partner, and a lot more fun and exciting than playing video games.”



Edmund Wu and fellow CBE alumni bridge player Brandon Wong at the screening of Double Dummy.

Have an interesting anecdote from the San Francisco NABC? Make sure you send it to Rich Luttrell or Ray Yuenger for next month’s Diamond in the Ruff!

Monterey Clambake Regional

January 6 - 12, 2020

Tournament Highlights

- *Five Bracketed Knockouts*
- *SIX Days of 0-750*
Gold Rush Events
- *Friday Open Pairs Qualifies*
to a BAROMETER final
- *Three Stratified Side Game Series*
- *DAYLIGHT PAIRS*
Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3
- *MID-FLIGHT PAIRS Wed-Thurs-Fri*
- *Free bridge concepts lectures*
Tuesday-Saturday at Noon
- *Celebrity Speaker Program*
- *Side Games every 9, 1 & 7 session*



HYATT REGENCY MONTEREY

1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Reserve EARLY for the Bridge Rate

single/double \$122 plus tax
no resort fee

Includes parking

831-372-1234 or 800-233-1234

cut off date for bridge rate is December 5

ENTRIES \$12

Unpaid ACBL Members \$16

District 21 website is your first resource for our Regionals:

Make hotel reservations
View tournament schedule
Plan your tournament events
Gather general information/directions
www.d21acbl.com

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: jmom380@yahoo.com
District 21 website: www.d21acbl.com
Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.
Schedule subject to change.

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs at every 9, 1 & 7 session
(stratified based on attendance)

**Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell**

Tuesday thru Saturday at Noon

Saturday is I/N Appreciation Day!

Play one session for \$10, or two for \$15

0-5MP's play free on Saturday

McKenzie Myers, Director in Charge ACBL Sanction R2001109

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

Like us on FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/d21acbl

flyer version 5 9-5-2019

Monterey Clambake Regional

January 6 - 12, 2020

at the HYATT REGENCY, 1 Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Monday, January 6

- 1:00 Cannery Row Stratified Side Pairs 1st of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
MONTEREY GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
BING CROSBY BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
Continues Tuesday at 1 & 7:00
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Cannery Row Stratified Side Pairs 2nd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Tuesday, January 7

- 9:00 Clambake Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
BIG SUR GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
- 1:00 Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 3rd of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**
JACK LEMMON BRACKETED KOs
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7
BING CROSBY KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 4th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Wednesday, January 8

- 9:00 **MONTEREY SWISS TEAMS**, 1st of 2
Continues Thursday at 9am
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 5th of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MIDFLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
BLUE WHALE GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
RORY MCILROY BRACKETED KOs
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Thursday 1 & 7
JACK LEMMON KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 6th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Thursday, January 9 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 **MONTEREY SWISS TEAMS** 2nd of 2
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Strat Side Pairs 1st of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MIDFLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
CARMEL GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
JOHN STEINBECK BRACKETED KOs
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Friday 1 & 7
RORY MCILROY KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Tom Watson Strat Side Pairs 2nd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Friday, January 10

- 9:00 **MICHELLE WIE SWISS TEAMS**
1st of 2 - Continues Saturday at 9
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MIDFLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
SPANISH BAY GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
- 1:00 Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 3rd of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS Qualifies to a**
BAROMETER FINAL @ 7:00
NQs enter 7:00 Swiss or Side Pairs
ERNIE ELS BRACKETED KOs,
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Saturday 1 & 7
JOHN STEINBECK KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 4th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Saturday, January 11 0-5 mp's play free today!

- 9:00 **MICHELLE WIE SWISS TEAMS** 2nd
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5
Starfish 99er Pairs
Seahorse 299er Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 5th of 6
- 1:00 Starfish 99er Pairs
Seahorse 299er Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**
A/X SWISS TEAMS 0-5000/5000+
B/C SWISS 0-3000/3000-5000
GOLD RUSH SWISS (0-300/750)
ERNIE ELS KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 6th of 6
Starfish 99er Pairs
Seahorse 299er Pairs

Sunday, January 12

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

STRATIFIED A/X SWISS TEAMS
Strat A 4000+ Strat X -0-4000
0-2500 ROUND ROBIN TEAMS

♦ No individual player over 2500 mp

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

♦ Teams may not withdraw after one session.

CLINT EASTWOOD FAST STRAT OPEN PAIRS
2 fast sessions with a short break

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

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.
A 2500+ B 1000 – 2500 C 0 - 1000
Eligibility for Flighted Events based on top player.
Thereafter, stratification based on average of pair/team



DISTRICT 21 NON-LIFE MASTER REGIONAL

FOR NLM'S WITH FEWER THAN 750 MASTER POINTS

Tournament Chairs: James Stuart-Smith
(jstuartsmith@att.net) and
Anne Keyser (apkeyser@aol.com)
Director in Charge: Lynn Yokel

Bridge Center
432A Stierlin Road
Mountain View, CA 94043
650-940-1824

- **GOLD Points**
- **Coffee and Snacks Provided**
- **Sign Up Online Now!!!**

Fees per session: ACBL Members: \$12; Students Under 25: \$6; Unpaid/Lapsed Members: \$16
Contact James Stuart-Smith (see above) if you need help finding partners/teammates.

Saturday, March 14, 2020

10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. – Gold Pairs
(single sessions maybe accommodated if space
available but do not qualify for gold)

All Games Stratified: 750/300/100

A Bag Lunch will be available for preorder online. For details and order form, see website.

Pre-Register online early to secure your entry – TABLE LIMIT 48 - tables fill up fast!

Go to: www.paloaltobridge.org - Events – Non-Life Master Regional

Sunday, March 15, 2020

10:30 p.m. and TBD – Swiss Teams (two sessions)
10:30 a.m. and TBD - Gold Pairs

RANK ADVANCES

JUNIOR MASTERS (5 MASTERPOINTS)

Jay Bergeron, Millbrae CA, 498
Thelma Beye, Reno NV, 473
Martha Brandon, Granite Bay CA, 505
Edwin Clough, Reno NV, 473
Jan Clough, Reno NV, 473
Bradford Cattel, Aptos CA, 550
Diane Fanshel, Mill Valley CA, 508
Marcello Golfieri, Mountain View CA, 503
Nicki Gram, Fresno CA, 522
Rolando Grijalva, Reno NV, 473
Diane Herold, Sacramento CA, 505
Diane Hidy, San Francisco CA, 506

Anne Horstmann, Menlo Park CA, 498
Florence Jones, Los Gatos CA, 507
Natasha Khandheria, Corte Madera CA, 508
Jenifer Lary, Brentwood CA, 499
Michael Liu, Fremont CA, 500
Jim Miller, Los Altos CA, 503
Gerry Patkay, Los Altos CA, 503
Ravi Puvvala, San Jose CA, 507
Jean Ramacciotti, Mountain View CA, 503
Richard Ross, Palo Alto CA, 503
Gary Sheerer, Los Altos CA, 503
Chris Shipp, Tiburon CA, 508
Ligra Shipp, Tiburon CA, 508
Edie Singer, San Francisco CA, 506
Annie Stroud, E Palo Alto CA, 503
Lewis Tanenbaum, Larkspur CA, 508
Mary Westin, Lodi CA, 510

**CLUB
MASTERS
(20 MASTERPOINTS)**

Julie Anongos, Monterey CA, 530
Norma Aroy, Tiburon CA, 508
Kenneth Binning, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Jeremy Brott, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Lou Browning, Aptos CA, 550
Sam Callaway, Pacific Grove CA, 530
Cynthia Cople, Santa Cruz CA, 550
Margie Durham, Alamo CA, 499
Peter Evans, Mill Valley CA, 508
Olga Gordon, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Nancy Green, Camel CA, 530
Maryjo Hawley, Cameron Park CA, 505
Sally Jenkins, Discovery Bay CA, 499
Dresden John, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Nita Kyle, Sacramento CA, 505
Kathy Lee, Mountain View CA, 503
Marc Lorenzen, San Francisco CA, 506
Douglas Mason, Lodi CA, 510
John McManis, Oakland CA, 502
Sandra Miller, Angels Camp CA, 510
Kathryn Odell, Galt CA, 505
Arna Shefrin, Menlo Park CA, 503
Lori Sherk, San Francisco CA, 506
Seva Sokolov, Emerald Hills CA, 498
Geno Stille, Incline Village NV, 465
Betsy Todd, Santa Rosa CA, 509

**SECTIONAL
MASTERS
(50 MASTERPOINTS)**

Celeste Falor, Monterey CA, 530
Elaine Fripp, Oakland CA, 502
Francie Gillies, Stockton CA, 510
Irving Googins, Pleasanton CA, 499
Bill Harper, Sonoma CA, 512
Thomas Hester, Moraga CA, 499
Steven Jacobson, Santa Clara CA, 507
Deborah Krass, Menlo Park CA, 498
David Lawson IV, Sacramento CA, 505
Paul Melodia, San Francisco CA, 506
Edwin Pogue, Sutter Creek CA, 505
Francine Pogue, Sutter Creek CA, 505
Bill Ralston, Los Altos Hills CA, 503
Esme Scanlin, Los Altos CA, 503
John Shouldice, Castro Valley CA, 500
Michael Whitaker, Moraga CA, 499

**REGIONAL
MASTERS
(100 MASTERPOINTS)**

Lynne Crawford, San Francisco CA, 506
Gregory Gauthier, Mountain View CA, 503
Amy Salisbury, Atherton CA, 503
Jeff Weaver, San Jose CA, 507

**NABC
MASTERS
(200 MASTERPOINTS)**

Guy Archambault, Reno NV, 473
Deborah Greenberg, Stockton CA, 510
Judy Johnson, Auburn CA, 505
Robert Johnson, Santa Cruz CA, 550
Amber Lin, San Francisco CA, 506
Kit Morse, San Mateo CA, 498
Anna Ravenscroft, Sunnyvale CA, 503
Marina Seppius, Palo Alto CA, 503
Margo Seymour, Los Altos CA, 503
Brian Sullivan, Healdsburg CA, 509
John Walker, Santa Cruz CA, 550
Helen Wood, Lodi CA, 510

**ADVANCED
NABC MASTER
(300 MASTERPOINTS)**

Kevin Patterson, Hayward CA, 500

**LIFE
MASTERS
(300/500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Linda Duchscherer, Castro Valley CA, 500
Jung Hu, San Jose CA, 507
Steven Merritt, Incline Village NV, 465
Bob Shafer, El Dorado Hills CA, 505
Andrew Sinclair, Sunnyvale CA, 507

**BRONZE
LIFE MASTERS
(500/750 MASTERPOINTS)**

Terry Ahern, Santa Clara CA, 507
Sue Schmidt, Lincoln CA, 505

**SILVER
LIFE MASTERS
(1000 MASTERPOINTS)**

Colin Hemsley, San Jose CA, 507
Sarah Simmerman, San Leandro CA, 500
Susan Zhang, Los Altos Hills CA, 503

RUBY
LIFE MASTERS
(1500 MASTERPOINTS)

Randy Corr, Alamo CA, 499
Marianne Van Gelder, Salinas CA, 530

GOLD
LIFE MASTERS
(2500 MASTERPOINTS)

Jeffrey Hack, San Jose CA, 507
Peter Lit, Elk CA, 509
Kim Morris, Fresno CA, 522
David Snyder, Emeryville CA, 502
Don Steedman, Albany CA, 497

SAPPHIRE
LIFE MASTER
(3500 MASTERPOINTS)

Mark McCarthy, San Francisco CA, 506

DIAMOND
LIFE MASTER
(5000 MASTERPOINTS)

Elizabeth Marcus, San Francisco CA, 506

EMERALD
LIFE MASTER
(7500 MASTERPOINTS)

Margery Yates, Cupertino CA, 503

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

CLICK ON THE LINK TO GO TO THAT PAGE

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>Joye Sidoti</u>
<u>Fresno</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>Laura Da Costa</u>
<u>Livermore</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>Rosemarie LaFrancesca</u>
<u>Marin</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>Gail Haar</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>Reno</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>Judith Robyns</u>
<u>Sacramento</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>Ben Glovinsky</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

Greetings to an overcrowded December, what with the usual holiday shopping/traveling, plus the SF NABCs & the impeachment circus in DC. Hope you're doing OK sorting it out (& my sympathies to the D21ers who still may be dealing w/power outages). Once the NABCs end, silver point chasers will have STaCs at which to get them the following week.

I was gone mid-Oct & didn't have a lot to write anyway, so what follows is an up-to-date recap, starting with 4 Unit Games: Wed 9/25, 7.5 tables: Dexter-Gordon topped it; chasers being Roger-George 2A/1B, Barb Lanier-Lamar 3A, Jack-Chet 4A, Esther Schroeder-Jan Straus 5A/2B, & Eric Brondfield-Charlotte Goode 3B. Fri 10/4, 8 tables: RoJo (Roseanne Smith-Joanne Cobeen) were boss; chasers: Steven Drucker-Andy Wasserman 2A, Eric-Don Steedman 3A, Roger-Meg 4A/1B, & Jean & Tom Berringer 5A/2B.

Wed 10/30, 7.5 tables: Eric & Dick topped it w/53.82%! Boards were all over the yard; lowest % score of the day was 43.06%. Behind my trusty relief directors: Roger-George 2A/1B, Vicky Chen-Inja Hwang 3A/2B, Barb-Trudie 4A, Sandi-Roseanne 5A, & Kerstin Barnett-Catherine Warren 3B. Fri 11/1, again 7.5 tables: Jack Shiffer-Miye Takeuchi (glad to have her back after a few years' hiatus) bossed it; chasers: Dexter-Gordon 2A, Eric-Sandi 3A, RoJo 4A, John Love-Bob Post 1B, Tamms 2B, & Vernita Davidson-Peggy Simmons 3B. We end 2019 & start 2020 w/ Unit games: Wed 12/18; Fri 12/20 & 1/3. Unit Holiday Party is Sat 12/14 STaC - \$2 if you bring food to share, \$7 otherwise. Food 12:15; game starts at 1.

Nobody died/moved away; we welcome new members Elaine Binger & Howard Hickman, plus transfer-in Will Starr from

San Diego. Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney rankings always are available on ACBL website – just click Unit 497 from the dropdown menu/ type in 497 (I pay no attention to that stuff, as I direct games far more than I play) – whatever works.

At da club: Chet Young was Sept LM MP champ; Roger Edelson & Bob Post tied for NLM spot. In Oct, Eric regained his top spot; Meg Gallaway (to whom we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery from a recent medical issue) topped the NLMs. No Dec. Club Championship game due to NABCs/ STaC/ & Unit games – 12/20 is the last game of the year – we reopen 1/3.

I got a special upgrade club championship game sanction for posting our results to ACBL Live Clubs portal – so if you're having trouble seeing them on the U497 site, go there – but you won't get the BridgePad matrix to see what was bid on a hand or the outcome. STaC games Wed & Fri 12/11 & 13 – come chase the silver.

We'll be open 12/4 & 6 – regular games (we can't run specials during NABCs). However, we have only 11 BridgePads, so 11 tables is the limit, & if you're not a regular, you need to call/e-mail me at least 12 hrs before game time to be guaranteed a seat

I played a standing gig w/long-time amiga Betty Kael @ U502 Sectional recently – our score in the A/X was exactly average, something I don't think I've ever had. But there was a bidding sequence on one board that drew a laugh from the table: I opened 1♣, LHO bid 1♠, Betty 2♥, RHO 3♦. I asked my LHO, “4th suit forcing?” & it went on after the comments & giggles. I've been in auctions where all 4 suits got bid up the rank around the table, but never all 4 bid over 2-3 levels.

So eat, drink, be merry, & stay safe amongst the idiots on the freeways. I'll be

in LA area hanging out w/dad-side cousins & their extended families – now I have to talk the Xmas dinner hostess into serving latkes as one of the sides, given that her son-in law is Jewish & Hanukah & Xmas coincide this year – I’ll volunteer for the chore, as I’ve made them a few times.

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

The first recorded date of Christmas was celebrated on December 25 was in 336 A.D. during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (he was the first Christian Roman Emperor). A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th of December.

Today, it’s now a Holiday season, celebrated by many. We may choose to deck the halls with bells of folly, get on the road to buy some holly, watch the drivers cut you off, scramble for the right gifts, and get into tiffs. Oh! What a time to be so jolly. Yikes.

Whatever the case, the holidays can be a time of sorrow too. Some folks don’t have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who won’t be able to come home for various reasons. A wonderful Holiday dinner may be only a wish, and for some, not even reality. I especially think of the fire and hurricane victims. Time to count our blessings.

When it comes to us optimistic bridge players, this Holiday season brings lots of



opportunities. Like the warmth and coziness of playing at your local bridge club, a fun-filled day, with the only wish that may come true, is winning a Master Point or two.

Our Board can really put on the Ritz! I’m so proud of all our members. We had a very successful Diablo Valley Fall Sectional. Last years tournament, we had approximately 173 tables, but this year, we pumped up the volume, and what a thrill! We had 225 tables. This was an over-the-top table count for a Fall Sectional.

Holiday Cheer was spilled over onto every attendee. All relished the snacks and goodies, and lunch was happily received. This great weekend was the result of a working Board, that really “works hard for no money.” With their help. Lyn Sacco, our President, always provides Bridge players with a fun environment. So much work goes into providing these types of events, and as the worker bees know, their behind the scenes efforts sometimes go unnoticed. However, they’re reflected on the folks, “Singing our praises for a weekend, well spent.”

Thank You all for helping make this Sectional a Grand One. Don’t forget to check our website for personal game results.

Cheers to a good year

East Bay

By Joye Sidoti

As most of you know the NABC Tournament is currently taking place in San Francisco from November 28 to December 8. I urge everyone to participate if at all possible. It is a fun event and an excellent opportunity to hone your bridge skills and meet new people.

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, there

will be only one regularly scheduled Unit 502 game in December, which will take place on Sunday, December 15 at 12 noon. This is also the date of the Holiday Banquet (the meal begins after the game), which is always an extremely popular event. Reservations are required, so please contact Marcia Wasserman (marciawasserman@gmail.com) to make a reservation. Don't wait too long! This event always sells out early.

Please note that there will not be a Unit 502 Game on Sunday, December 1 or an EBCBC game on Sunday, December 8 due to the ongoing NABC Tournament in San Francisco on those dates.

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 games, there will be EBCBC Sunday games. In December there are two such games, which will take place on December 22 and 29. The games begin at 12:00 noon, and a light lunch will be served before the game.

If you need Silver Points, the week of December 9 to December 13 is STAC Week.

The week of December 16 to December 22 will be Club Championship Week with extra award points available at all games. There is also a Club Membership game on Sunday, December 29.

The monthly Swiss Teams game is on Saturday, December 28. This month the pair with the highest masterpoint total will be paired with the lowest masterpoint pair. The game starts at 12:00 noon. For further information contact Greg Vance, Grant Vance or David Geary.

Greg Vance, Grant Vance and Jessica Lai did well at the Castro Valley Sectional. On Saturday Greg (playing with Drew Hoskins) won the 2 session open pairs game, while Grant and Jessica finished fourth. On Sunday the team of Greg, Grant, Jessica and Dmitri Shabes finished second in the top bracket.

Greg earned a total of 20.63 silver points, while Grant and Jessica earned 13.68. Congratulations! Nice work.

In the October 20 Pizza Swiss unit game, the team of Grant Vance, Jessica Lai, Peter Bonifanti and Andrew Sinclair finished in first place, Shirley Rodenborn, Loretta Dimitruck, Pan Sawyer and Frank Silver finished second, Rhavi Bhalla, Glenn Boyce, Cathleen Otvos and Edwin Seputis third, and Cole Powell, David Snyder, Andy Wasserman and Marcia Wasserman fourth.

In the November 3 unit game, Yardena Arar and Christian Goetze finished in first place (70.42%), Andre Fargeix and Rajeev Gupta finished second (65.00%), Betty Kael and Susan Boyers third (56.67%), Joyce Hart and Shirley Rodenborn fourth (53.75%), and Barry Kael and Eileen Eastman fifth (50.83%).

To start 2020 (and the new decade) off on a high note, the ever-popular Monterey Regional takes place from January 6 to 12, 2020. Make your reservations early, as the Hyatt Regency Monterey usually fills up quickly.

Welcome to new Unit 502 members Nancy and Richard Jacobs, Bruce Pollock and Valerie Wood (transfer from South County Unit 500)! When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements: Rohan Srivastava to Club Master; Allan McAllister to Sectional Master; Amy Hansell to Life Master; Tom McKelvey to Ruby Life Master; Cathleen Otvos 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!

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

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

I discussed the Fresno Fall Sectional last month, so I will focus on the other October event in the clubhouse. Sunday, the 20th was the “Golden” game, as we had a Club Appreciation Team game in which 5% of all masterpoints were gold points. As we did last year, we decided to share the wealth by making the game a Pro-Am Team game where teams were drawn before game time. We also decided to make it extra special by having Don Austin bring and work the barbecue one last time for the year. We had six tables present for our hamburger and hotdog lunch. It was great fun for everyone—good food and a game where everyone won at least one round, so all got at least some gold (.01/win). The big winners based on Victory Points were Ann Derwin (Captain), Steve Holmes, Jonel Mueller, & Nancy Jones; their 2.4 master points win included .12 gold points. Congratulations to the winners and all of those that who attended. I hope you will all think of joining us again on some future Pro-Am event.

A few big events are coming up in December. December 8 is the annual Unit Christmas Party. This event includes a noon lunch provided by the Board of Directors, a brief general meeting, and a game at 1 pm. This is usually the first holiday party at our Clubhouse. Be on the lookout in Aces & Places for other scheduled club parties.

December 9 will mark the beginning of the Sectional Tournament at Club (STaC) games. These silver masterpoint games will be held in most, if not all, of our club games that week.

We have six pairs with 70% games in October. In Madera, Steve Johnson & Carol Kaufman, 72.22% in the Wednesday

evening Open game on 10/2. In Oakhurst, Ken Sommers & Dana Brown, 70.30% in the Thursday morning Open game on 10/10. The rest occurred in Fresno. In the Fresno Fall Sectional, visitors (and former Fresnians), James & Susan Slinger, 71.02% in the Saturday morning Open Session on 10/5. On 10/14, Lowell Gist & Mark Stern, 71.85% in the Monday afternoon Open game. In the 299er game on 10/16, Steve Johnson had his second 70% game of the month when he and Jonel Mueller earned 73.75%. Lastly, Peggy & John Oakshott earned a 70.30% in the Thursday afternoon 750 game on 10/17.

Congratulations to two members who accomplished feats in November. Kim Morris became a Gold Life Master (2500 mps)! Steve Johnson passed the director test! Congratulations to both!

Finally, the Saturday morning Easybridge! lessons came to an end just before the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be taking off the month of December and start anew in January. Encourage friends and family members to join our free beginner lessons when they start up again on January 18.

Happy Holidays and I will talk to you again in 2020.

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

Our annual holiday party will take place on December 16. We will provide ham, turkey, and drinks. Members will bring potluck dishes to share. We hope you all come join us in the festivities, bring your bridge playing friends!

The next national tournament is in our backyard. San Francisco, open your Golden Gate for the ACBL! We have volunteers helping from our unit; if you can help, sign

up for a time on the ACBL website. It will be great to see our international friends in San Francisco. I notice that one of the pairs games in SF is the Franklin Lowenthal Pairs. I hope to play in that event. I remember Frank well and have missed talking baseball, not bridge, with him!

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 viapfdubois.com/publish. There are links to neighboring units if you want to travel to your next bridge game.

Remember to get ready for our sectional which is held the last weekend in January...no conflicts with NFL Playoffs or Super Bowl! Start thinking about what you can do to help out this year. I'm sure our chairman, Art Mirin, will happily accept all volunteers. Until next time, Happy Holidays!

Marin

By Gail Haar



We have several new and new to us members this month: Diane Goldman, David Bloom, Gloria Martinez, Judith Duffy and Wendy Jarrett. Congratulations to new Club Master Linda Fong and new Gold Life Master Michael Hartnett. There were 2 Big Games this month, Barbara Prior & Peter Sager (72.52 % at Fuldek) and Hilde Meislin & Nancy Herzog (71.44% at Terra Linda). Unit Game winners were Gene Simpson & Laura Kenney on both October 20 and November 3. Good going!

Most of our clubs will be closed during the NABC but there will be games in Terra Linda on Monday Dec. 2 and Friday Dec. 6. Tuesday December 3 is Peggy Tatro Day at the NABC. Come play, stop by the registration desk for a special sticker, and enjoy!

On Sunday, December 15 at Terra Linda, we'll be all festive and party down with the usual trilogy: bar, potluck lunch, and a unit STaC game. The party is free, but donations are requested for Homeward Bound of Marin. Last year we raised more than \$50,000 so let's be extra generous this year to help continue their outstanding work. Food or cash contributions for party food are needed (checks to Kathy Sanders work, too). You can call or text Kathy at 415-272-3033 or email deertrailk@comcast.net. NOTE: Signing up to bring food does not register you for the unit STaC game!

The unit STaC game December 15 is our biggest game of the year and yields those precious Silver Masterpoints (MP). For space reasons we are going to limit it to 32 tables (our elves need to be able to maneuver through the festive tables) and advance registration is required. We'll have an Open Section plus a

Limited (0-199) Section, provided we can get 3 full tables of 199ers. If you have 199 or fewer MP, please, please come & join us - we'll make sure everyone is welcoming and on their good behavior. Just kidding – our players are always on their good behavior. The ACBL charges more for STaC games, so this one has \$12 card fees; the unit will cover card fees for 508 Members. Register here: <http://marinbridge.com/2019-holiday-party/> or email your ACBL #'s and names to marinbridge.holiday@sonic.net. Unit members have registration priority but others will be wait-listed and notified if there are openings.

The last planned power outages played havoc with our home lives and our bridge lives here in Marin. Let's all hope for rain (not too much at once) so we can resume our normal routines.

And finally, what purports to be a true story from a local tournament. Pat and Chris (made up names) finish early in a team event, and go to their home table to compare scores. The huge room is still rather quiet, when Chris leaps up and exclaims loudly enough for the whole room to hear, "How could he pass out of turn? He had an opening hand!"

Monterey

By Mary Block

The major news of the month is the transition to, and inauguration of the new Bridge Center in Del Rey Oaks. Although there was a great deal of preplanning and work, the bulk of the labor took place on Saturday, November 2 and the first game was Monday, November 4. Given the demographics of our unit, the average age of the labor force was 70+, and that is taking into account the strong backs of a couple of youngsters pressed into service by our members. Thanks to our party

planner extraordinaire, Fran Soskins, for the festive decorations and mimosas during the first week.

Trulee Ricketts, Sharon Larson, and Maja all helped with the final cleanout of the old Bridge Center at Fort Ord.

The new venue is undergoing a sort of shakedown cruise at this time. The new sink and counters are to be installed as of the week this is being written. For most of the players, the transition is relatively seamless. For the club owners, there are some challenges, especially related to food preparation and cleanup. We all need to help pick up after ourselves and adjust our expectations. Yes, the room is smaller than what we are used to, but it still works. We need to keep our voices down, but we should have been doing that anyway, Kathy. The bathrooms are adequate and the parking is, as well. We may have to walk a little farther, but at least it isn't over uneven gravel. The new phone number for the Bridge Center is 747-1650. There is new wi-fi with a long and complicated password. Ask for help if you need it.

So far, the table count for the first two weeks is just about holding steady with what it had been at the former venue. The Board of Directors is exploring other opportunities to maximize playing opportunities for players of all levels and thus the income needed to pay the rent and expenses. A new Saturday game has begun with a MP maximum of 750. After a one week trial, the game is now sanctioned and hand records are provided. Susan Mazzei is donating her services for the time being as director and other members are donating food so all the table fees go to the unit.

The MBEF held the final special event at the old Bridge Center on October 27; the annual Halloween party fundraiser. Many of the players were in costume and the winners of the costume contest were Julie Garvin as a

nun and Richard Sheere as Death. Please think about supporting the future of duplicate bridge in our area through a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation.

Lyde will be holding the annual New Year's Eve party, "Early to bed", Chinese Buffet and bridge, signups starting December 1 at the Bridge Center. Lyde will also be providing hand records at her Wednesday and Friday games to enhance the learning experience/provide a way to snark at your partner. She will be having classes in January on cue bidding and common doubles.

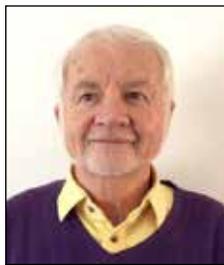
The Board of Directors is looking for someone to fill the position of Intermediate/Newcomer Coordinator. Donna Jett, after a long tenure in this volunteer position, is seeking someone to take over as Hospitality Chair for the Clambake. She will train you. Sharon Larson is a new member of the Board of Directors.

We are www.montereybridgeclub.com
The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am maru0407@comcast.net
The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

Good luck at the Nationals! I'm sure we'll have a large amount of players going for the Gold in San Francisco. It's always a lot of fun there with stratified games for all. There are still a few opportunities to volunteer there, so contact Sigrid Price if you're willing and able to do it. The volunteer opportunities will not conflict with your scheduled games. Even if you don't play, it's still fascinating to see all those bridge players in one spot. The



one knock on Unit 512 is that we tend to hog more than our share of Master Points in these tournaments so let your opponents win a hand every now and then.

'Tis the season. The game schedule for the Holiday season in Sonoma is as follows: No games on December 23, 24, 25, 31, and January 1. There will be a game on Monday December 30. The Sonoma club will have its Holiday party on Wednesday Dec. 18. It's a pot luck and we have some excellent cooks in our club so bring a favorite dish to share. The Unit Party is not to be missed! It will be at the Elks Club in Napa with a game followed by a wonderful catered meal. Bring your significant other to the meal and have him/her meet all these wonderful friends you have made. See Sigrid for details. Happy Holidays to all!

We had a couple of double winners in Sonoma for the month of November. They are Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson and Dan Harp & Neil Stern. Other winning pairs were Barbara Lemme & Suzie Davis, Susan Mullaly & Bill Grasse, Evelyn Holtz & Nancy Gunn, and Mark Hersko & Larry Spanier.

Napa winners included Richard Tebay & Duane Smith, Dan Harp & Joanne Wegsten, Anita Pensler & George Gordon, and Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson.

We had a couple of double winners for first place in Rio Vista with Sue Vogtlin winning with both Bob Lohse and Tim Crew and Tim also won a game with Natalie Crew. Joyce Vass & Chandler Stauffer also won a game and there was a tie between Scott Clyde & Christine Balaguer and Lois Brusen & John Krebs.

70% games were the norm in the 499er game. Havard & Susan Staggs came in at 71% and Susan also won a game with Jean Behse. David Becker & Marilyn Edwardes had a 72% game and Barbara Storrie & Judy Brodsky

had a 71% game, but they didn't win! Jocelyn Malkhassian & John Tarantino had a 76% in the same game! John also won a game with Kathy Ann Wilson.

Some of the players who have been in our unit for a long time will remember Dudleigh Mudgway. Dudleigh recently passed away. She was originally from New Zealand and added a lot to the good times we've had at our unit over the years. She was a wonderful person.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

Our great Unit 503 Holiday Party is coming up on Sunday, December 15 from 11:30 - 4:00. Grab your partner, bring a pot luck salad, side or dessert to share (the unit will supply the ham and turkey and drinks). The lunch (11:30) and game (12:30) are free, but please bring some cash or a check for the Community Services Agency. Gift cards (\$25 is the recommended denomination) are also appreciated because they allow parents the opportunity to purchase gifts they know their children will enjoy. This year, toy donations are not accepted. The CSA is a local safety net organization that provides services to individuals and families on low or fixed incomes, to those who are homeless, and to seniors.

Sign up on-line soon at <https://paloaltobridge.org/holiday-party-2019/> so you don't miss it. Gosh, last year I thought Val signed up and she thought I did, and we almost missed the fun. This year I signed up right away, because (sob) it'll be my last party before I move to Santa Barbara in the spring.

Have you noticed that our main club will be



closed during the San Francisco NABC from November 27 - December 8? That's a long time to be without a duplicate game, so I hope you are planning to trek up to SF for at least a few games, if not the whole shebang. The one exception in Palo Alto will be Gabi's game at the Unity Church on Tuesday, 12/3 (YAY!). And then from December 9-13 is STAC week (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs). Games are \$2 extra, but just think of the silver points.

We don't have any new life masters this month, but we do have lots of advancements. Congratulations to Heather Black, Chase Dearborn, Ed Klar and Peter Moulds (Junior Masters); Amnon Fisher, Raghu Murthy and John Nicholson (Sectional Masters); Eva Cheung and Dimitri Stukalov NABC Masters; and Bill Bushnell (Advanced NABC Master). These players earned their colors: Qin Lu (Bronze), Dori Foster (Silver), and Kathy Harper (Diamond). Kathy teaches many of our bridge classes, with many happy students to shake her hand about this fine achievement.



Kathy Harper

I hope you saw the great article by Kevin Rosenberg in last month's Bridge Bulletin. SiVY junior players Kevin, Cornelius Duffie and Sarah Youngquist (along with Ben Kristensen) won the gold medal in the



Cornelius Duffie, Benjamin Kristensen, Kevin Rosenberg, Sarah Youngquist.

Under-26 team division of the World Youth Open Bridge Championships in Croatia this past August. What an accomplishment! Kevin also won a gold medal for having the highest combined score in the teams/pairs/individual championships. Congrats, Kevin and thank you for an entertaining article.

Thought for the day: The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you sit at the bridge table. Well, not for Kevin, Ben, Cornelius, & Sarah, that's for sure!

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season, and may we all earn lots of gold and silver points this month.

Reno

By Judith Robyns

Paul Ferber is one of our newer club directors. He became a director a year and a half ago when the only director at the Sierra Canyon Club moved from the area. He wanted to make sure the duplicate game continued as a sanctioned ACBL game at Sierra Canyon. He was also instrumental in getting the 299er game on Friday off to a great start. Now on Friday, there are equal or sometimes more tables in the 299er section than in the open section.

Paul started playing duplicate bridge about seven years ago. Although he had played a little back in college, he knew nothing about duplicate bridge. A good friend offered to teach him. After six weeks of Wednesday night lessons, he started to play in a small game at Sierra Canyon. The Life Masters there were very helpful in furthering his learning. After a couple of years, he got up the courage to play at the Reno Bridge Center. He is now a

regular at the Reno club and goes to sectional and regional tournaments.

Paul practiced law for fourteen years. He started at the Department of Justice and ended as the Los Angeles resident partner for a Wall Street law firm. He then became a law school professor in Vermont until retirement. Then he and his wife, Dorrie, moved to Reno. Their favorite pastime was scuba diving all over the world. Paul said Papua New Guinea was his favorite place to dive. When health issues kept him from diving, they focused on traveling. They have been on six continents and hope to plan a visit to Antarctica to make it to all seven continents. Asia was his favorite continent to visit, although Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) was very close. He and his wife, Dorrie, are also active in the theater group at Sierra Canyon. Both have appeared in several productions. He and Dorrie always enjoy going out with friends to dinner and a show at the Pioneer Center or the Reno Little Theater.

Paul thinks duplicate bridge will continue to grow in Reno. Our club has several people pitching in to offer classes and new games for less experienced players. Also he thinks the move to our new site will make a difference. I asked him if he had any ideas on how to get the Sierra Canyon duplicate players more involved with the Reno club. He said when the new center is open, some Sierra Canyon players might come to Reno to play. He has a weekly internet invitation to the Friday 299er game – he sends it to all the Non Life Masters at Sierra Canyon.

Paul is a congenial gentleman. He is a good partner and teammate. He is a great ambassador for our game.

Achievements this month: Junior Master – Chrissy Buford; Club Master - Madeline Soo; Sectional Master - Robin Rakusin; Bronze Life Master - Cherri Ross.

Sacramento

By Ben Glovinsky

Partnership Pet Peeves

Has a partner ever annoyed or angered you for being temperamental, inconsiderate, or rude? Has your partner's personality gotten in the way of your enjoyment of the game? Has his behavior hurt your game? Has he displayed an unwarranted lack of trust? Has her playing style gotten on your nerves?

Do you have any pet peeves? I posed this question to some local players and got some interesting responses. Sometimes bad tempers become big issues.

Player A was playing at a Regional in Oregon with a pro who continuously yelled at him in spite of multiple warnings from the director. So Player A seethed, finished the round and left before the second session of the team game in protest.

Player B also had a partner who was so argumentative at a sectional that the director put them in a separate room. The East-West had to come to their private location.

Some partners can be thoughtless and rude.

Marc Grunseth noticed at a National in San Francisco that the parking lot closed at 11:00 p.m., so when 10:50 came around, he informed his partner he had to move his car before the last round. When Marc returned, he discovered his partner had left without waiting for him to play the round. This same partner also showed up 20 minutes late for a Swiss team event at a regional with no apologies. (The final straw was when he refused to play his ace to set a contract!) A different partner screwed up a very basic agreement and then admitted, "Yeah, I guess I SHOULD have studied our card".

Mary Lou Faggella shared a particularly irritating partnership encounter. She was

the declarer. "Everyone bid except me," she explained. "I passed 4 times. My partner won the contract and went down royally. He then picked up his pencil, shook it at me and blurted 'You made me go wrong!'"

Player C had a 300 pound partner who would angrily bang the table when the opponents made him mad. This did not sit well with her...

Sometimes someone's behavior can hurt the partnership.

Ali Topcu objected to a partner who showed facial expressions exhibiting strong emotions as well as making comments at the table. "It gives unauthorized information," he noted. He has also been perturbed when he feels his partner did not trust him or the scenario when a partner had an ego problem thinking he is a better player than he really is. In addition, he disliked when a partner was critical in front of the opponents. "They will catch your weaknesses," he commented. And it is destructive. It destroys morale."

Player D's partner was so negative, and such an unhappy person, that he decided he couldn't deal with playing with her anymore. He told her the drive was too far.

A lack of trust can be destructive.

Carl Oeser was just out of college playing with the "king" of the day game, usually masterminding every hand. Carl kept bidding diamonds in a cold contract, the opponents kept doubling and his partner kept pulling it and bidding spades. "He thought I was an idiot. He went down -1700. I put on my jacket, turned to my partner and said if you're going to bid and play both hands, I'm going back to work!" And much to his partner's dismay, Carl got up and left!

Sometimes a partner's playing style can be bothersome.

Player E can't stand it when her partner plays so slowly hesitating on every trick, that

Player E loses her concentration. She also gets frustrated when the next table is vacant, it's time to move onto the next round and an oblivious partner stays seated and chats!

A lack of moral support can be damaging.

Michael Nadler's worst experience was with a partner who criticized every play he made. "He never complimented a good play and acted as if anyone could have figured it out. He also never tried to instruct me in any structured fashion. I finally resolved to never play with him again."

Personalities can be problematic.

Joy O'Dell had a partner who thought she knew more than she did and was not willing to bend. "Every time we bid some convention and it went wrong, she said 'That's not the way we do it on the East Coast.' She just never bid according to the rules of conventions. It was just an alibi."

But the most atrocious behavior goes to a partner of Barbara Somervill. She recounted the story: "I was playing in the GNT's at the NYC Nationals. My partner was pathological about winning. The rest of our team were 3 gentleman from India. Fourth session, we were playing a team from Vancouver. One of the pair at the table was Chinese and spoke very little English. They alerted everything and my partner asked for an explanation every time. The explanations by the Chinese gent differed, but not appreciably. My partner called the director EVERY time. The opponents bid incorrectly several times, we doubled and they were down 800, 1100, 1100 and 1700 on 4 boards. At the break, we were up by 62 IMPS. After the break, play resumed and proceeded as before. Play had started at 7:30 and it was 11:30 with 4 boards to go. Once again, my partner called the director (call number 10 or so). Partner and director left the table for a discussion. My LHO said 'Is he your husband?' Me: Absolutely

NOT!LHO:'Then I feel comfortable telling you he is the most obnoxious jackass I've ever played against.' It reached 12:15 a.m. with 1 board to go. He called the director again. This time, the director waved me over and said, 'Is the match close?' ME: No, we're up between 85-90 IMPS. Director:'How do you stand it?' Me: After this tournament I'm never playing with him again! The director told me to return to the table where he declared the hand an average for both sides. True to my word, I never played with that partner again. We earned a total of 36 gold points in NYC. Miserable way to earn gold."

By the way, I feel blessed with very nice partners! My worst experience was a former partner who kept proselytizing!

The Winter Sectional will be December 6-8 at the Sacramento Bridge Center at 2015 Hurley Way Suite 270, Sacramento. Stratified pairs games will be held on Friday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. Sunday will be Swiss Teams at 10:30 a.m.. Please arrive early as space may be limited. Lunch will be available daily for \$5.00. Tournament Chairman Dave Willmott can be reached at 916-709-8958 or dwillmott@yahoo.com Co-Chairman Josh Haskett can be reached at jhaskettphd@hotmail.com. Please contact David Britton-Ohl for partnerships at 916-690-1981 or dands@britton-ohl.name.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

The holiday season is upon us; time to celebrate at the bridge table!

Join us for Unit 506's annual Holiday Party on December 21. The game is at the usual location, St. Mary's Cathedral at



Gough & Geary, and all are welcome. Come enjoy the holiday spirit among friends. San Francisco clubs will be hosting holiday games and parties as well; check their websites for dates and details.

Just in case you didn't play enough bridge, win enough points, and completely exhaust yourself at the San Francisco NABC, hot on its heels comes the Holiday Sectional Tournament at Clubs, running December 9-15. Give yourself the holiday gift of silver points in the comfortable surroundings of your favorite clubs.

Quicktricks will ring out 2019 with the Not Quite New Year's Eve Elegant Games on Monday evening, January 30. Players are encouraged to come in evening wear or other elegant attire. The games will be Elegant Teams in the open section and Elegant Pairs in the 299er section. Special treats will be served and prizes awarded to the most elegantly dressed. The club last held an elegant event on Valentine's Day 2011, and it was great fun. Who knew that bridge players could look so sharp? Time for a reprise. Don ye now your gay apparel and come celebrate the New Year! The Sunset Club will be open on New Year's Day, so you can ring in 2020 with even more bridge (and wear a t shirt and sneakers).

Speaking of the New Year, the always terrific San Francisco Winter Sectional will be played January 18-19, 2020 at the Janet Pomeroy Center. Just when your New Year's champagne has worn off, it's time for even more bridge. Start planning to play at the best sectional in the Bay Area now.

Welcome as always to our new members: Susan Kanke, George Sullivan, Laura Mogannam, Paget Valentzas, and David Warner. Hope you newcomers are enjoying our winter bridge wonderland.

Congratulations to this month's ladder climbers: new Junior Master David Becker; Club Masters, Andrew Hong and Mark Robb; Sectional Master, Caroline Allen; Regional Master, Al Cavagnaro; and Life Master, Chris Chen. Well played, everyone! Next month, after the NABC results are tallied, we should have a huge crowd of rank ascendants. Stay tuned for results and bragging about the exploits of San Franciscans in next month's column.

The happiest of holidays to Unit 506ers! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Winter Solstice, Season's Greetings, Happy New Year, and Joy to the World!

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

First a quick thanks to Jackie Lowenberg who graciously filled in as writer of this column last month.

Autumn has been a time of intense activity for Unit 498. Three unit games have entered the history books with enthusiastic attendance.

In late October (too late for last month's deadline) our annual Halloween Game was held with some intrepid folks braving the odds and attending in costume - we saw a butterfly, a Maharajah and his Maharani, Bat-Girl and various hats, necklaces and other fun items in keeping with the Halloween spirit. Costume efforts were rewarded with Starbucks gift cards.

On November 9 Unit 498 joined with the Coastside Women's Club in Half Moon Bay to hold an ACBL membership drive, the first ever sanctioned game held at the Ted Adcock center in downtown Half Moon Bay. The

concerted efforts of Maria Grigorieff and her team delivered a lively and well attended game with a delicious buffet luncheon highlighting the culinary skills of the Half Moon Bay hosts. Cheryl Haines directed the game efficiently, giving special encouragement to players new to ACBL play. Her efforts resulted in ten new members joining the organization. Marolyn Imaoka helped Cheryl with technical support. Special thanks to Bonnie McGuinness who organized and prepared much of the food (and she isn't even a bridge player!), Sharon Weight (maker of all the soaps and many of the raffle baskets), Becca Simmons who set up the lunch table (baked cookies, and did all the dishes).

The Unit 498 Annual Meeting and game was held on November 16. Janelle Van Rensselaer, president, gave a readout on the accomplishments of our Unit in 2019, highlighting individuals who consistently spend time and energy in pursuit of the best aspects of the game - camaraderie, fun, mental exercise and general good will toward all participants. Janelle related our philanthropic successes in our hugely successful Longest Day Fundraiser (which raised \$22K); our contribution and ongoing support of Peninsula Youth Bridge (raising \$ 1000 +), and the award we secured for our designated charity, Call Primrose (\$5,000 from ACBL).

Sue Papilion, Treasurer, summarized the unit's financial status succinctly, pointing out a bottom line improvement over last year. Finally, the unit was asked to approve the new slate of Board Members for 2020. Unanimous approval was given to the following: Janelle Van Rensselaer, President; Bob Gleason, Vice President and tournament Chair; Cathy Johnson, Treasurer; Sue Papilion, Treasurer; Loren Charlton, director; Fran Gaura,

director and Unit Game Coordinator, Vaughn Patterson, director; Susan Vuko, director and Membership Chair; Danna Sorenson, director.

Janelle presented the Joseph Schmitz award to Albert Malouf. This award is presented annually to a player whose overall comportment embodies the attributes of good sportsmanship, courtesy, willingness to assist newer players, and overall adherence to the highest standards of our bridge community. Al is a past president and started the Unit 498 tradition of a strong program of newcomer classes. Congratulations to Albert!

Retiring board member, Jackie Lowenberg (former president) sent this note for the last column of 2019: "As I retire from the Board of Directors (BOD) this month, I need to thank my dear friends and mentors in our Unit 498 community for all the good work and good times of the last few years. I especially thank, on behalf of our 2019 Board, our wonderful president, Janelle Van Rensselaer, who has done a fantastic job of strengthening and growing our unit. Let the good times roll for her and her 2020 Board of Directors."

To close out the year and to thank our members for their ongoing support of Unit 498, the Board of Directors is inviting all members to a special holiday game and brunch on December 14, 2019. at Fattoria e Mare. This special event includes the restaurant's brunch buffet and sanctioned game for \$8.00 for Unit 498 members. Non-unit members are welcome at the regular brunch and game fee of \$20.00. Look for your Punchbowl invitation to sign up. Seating is limited to 100 players so respond early. If you are unable to use the Punchbowl RSVP, please contact Fran Gaura on fishscales@sbcglobal.net to request seating. Walk-ins may not be accommodated for this event. Carpooling is strongly urged. Come join the festivities and wish your fellow players the best of the holiday season!

Let's give a warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Jim and Kristin Sutro and Bruce Bogner. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Amy Christen, Paul Destefano, Hamid Motamed; to Club Master, Ann Whittaker; to NABC Master, Sue Papilion; to Advanced NABC Master, Wesley May; to Silver Life Master, Virginia Wailes.

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

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

You won't want to miss our Unit 550 Holiday Party and Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m. Unit members, this is a free game and lunch for you, a time to visit and catch up, and we usually have a full house which makes the game all the more exciting.



There will be two sessions, Open and 299er. Sign-up at the club is mandatory so we can get a lunch count. During the Annual Meeting portion of the day, our 2020 Board of Directors will be announced and welcomed.

Speaking of full houses, the annual Dolores Abrams Memorial Game was extremely well attended with 10 tables in the Open Pairs session and 7 tables in the 299er session. Everyone enjoyed a fabulous lunch and a good time was had by all.

Congratulations to Lester Loops for attaining Sectional Master, and Judy Osborn for Advanced NABC Master status. Welcome to new Unit 550 member Glen Cornett. Congratulations are also due to Andrew &

Marilyn Calciano who attained a high score of 71.43% in a club game.

Unit 550 offers games most days and several evenings. Open Pairs games are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday daytimes and Thursday evenings. Thursday daytime games vary. First, third and fifth Thursdays are Open Pairs. Second Thursday is Open + NLM Pro-Am. Fourth Thursday is Open Swiss. If you're playing on Thursday, be sure to bring a lunch.

Wednesday evenings are for 99er Pairs. 199ers play on Monday evenings with a free lesson preceding. 749er Pairs are on Tuesday evenings. Sunday afternoons are a NLM or Mentor game with a free lesson preceding.

With the holidays upon us, be sure to check the website for specific game times and for game cancelations.

Our regular unit game will be on Saturday, December 14 at 10 a.m. and will be during Winter STaC.

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.

Did you know that we have a Sunshine Lady at Unit 550? If you would like the unit to send a greeting card to someone who is ill or in need of encouragement, if a member needs our support or just to know that they are missed, contact Diana Schilling.

To see the complete Unit 550 schedule and calendar, or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org and be sure to visit our Face Book page. As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue, Please use unscented, non-perfumed products.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

Like in so many units in the district, unit 509 players are getting ready for the Nationals. Players are fine tuning their convention cards with their favorite partners. Excitement is in the air. One of the celebrity speakers at the San Francisco NABC is our unit's Jennifer Jones who will be presenting tips for success from her new book, *Bridge Tournament Handbook*, on Friday morning, December 6, at 9:15 a.m.

Unit 509's NAP Unit Finals were originally scheduled October 27 but were held November 3 due to the Kincade Fire. First overall were David Pankratz and Kathy Venton with 68.52%. First in B and C were Roy Redlich and Hans Van Boldrik with 61.11%. Other NAP qualifiers were Abbe Cohen, Brian Sullivan, Kate Hill, Evelyn Holtz, Carol Kemper, Patricia Hertz, Jeremy Brott, Laurie Vree, Barbara Simon, Wayne Kaneko, Lawson James, Henry Gaw, Patricia Gittings and Shelly Dunietz.

Barbara Seagram came to the Bridge Gallery on November 23 and 24 to teach 3 classes: *Defensive Strategy & Signaling*, *Stripping can be Fun*, and *Tricks from Out of Nowhere*. The classes were a great success. Overheard were "It was the best day of my life" and "I finally understand." One of the new players had great success bidding with a 6 diamond slam. Barbara's classes are always well received and appreciated in Santa Rosa.

After Barbara's class, she and her husband, Alex, stayed for a unit game. First overall were Abbe Cohen and Bob Klein with 65.51%, second were Rose Mary Baltrusaitis and Larry Spanier with 58.80, first in B were Carol and James Reed, and first in C were Lawson James and Henry Gaw.

The Petaluma Bridge Club celebrated its fourth anniversary November 21 by announcing a change of ownership. Next year the club will be run by Nancy Gunn, a long time member of the Sonoma County bridge community and past recipient of the District 21 Goodwill Award. The PBC Thursday and Saturday afternoon games will continue as usual. In addition Nancy Gunn will be presenting lessons on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30 on a wide range of topics. She will also be available to mentor players who wish to improve their bridge skills on most Thursdays and some Saturdays. The change of ownership will be effective January 15, immediately after the Monterey regional.

Unit 509's annual Holiday Party is on Sunday, December 15, at the Oakmont Golf and Country Club. For more information see <http://acblunit509.org>.

Kathy Juarez will be offering Learn Bridge in a Day® at the Bridge Gallery on Saturday, January 18, 2020. This five-hour course is geared towards true beginners, those returning to bridge after long absences, and those wanting to "test the waters." The course includes both class instruction and coached play. If you have friends and family who are thinking bridge might be a good game for them, let them know about this opportunity to find out more about the game. For more information about the class email Kathy Juarez at lbiad@sonic.net.

Kathy Venton is presenting a free Introduction to Duplicate for social bridge players on Saturday, January 25. Details will be in next month's newsletter.

As of November 21, we had 5 big games since our last report. At the Bridge Gallery, Shelley Schuster and Barbara Norman won by 70.05% on November 7; Panette Talia and Cecelia Zachar, by 71.04% on November 8; and Erwin Linzner and Sara Rothmuller, by

73.51% on November 19. In Petaluma, Ellen Schiller and Loretta Bromberg turned in 2 big games, 70.14 on November 9 and 76.25% (!!!) on November 16. Congratulations all!!

At the end of October, the ACBL notified us that Stephanie Poley is our new Sectional Master; and Bill Walton, our new Regional Master. Congratulations.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Some months there just isn't as much unit news. No immediately upcoming sectionals or unit games, no turnover on the unit board. Another STaC week is beginning on December 9. Next month I should have plenty to report as our unit members demonstrate their winning ways at the San Francisco nationals.



Looking back at recent tournaments, at the Ventura regional, Kevin Rosenberg's team prevailed in their bracket. Hisae Izushima placed first in a pairs event at the Las Vegas sectional.

At the Diablo Valley sectional, John Stremel won a limited pairs event. Section tops in open pairs went to John Hodges, Tsao-Tung Tsai & Luen-Jyh Luo. Winning in their team brackets were Kevin Rosenberg; Xin & Kayden Ge, Sarah, Andrew & Charlie Chen.

At the East Bay sectional, John Hodges placed first in an open pairs event. Dorr Clark & Raghu Agarwal won a limited pairs event, while Lu Ann Walker & Robert Brunkhorst had a section top in the same game. Lynn Yokel had a section top in an open pairs event. David Mack's team prevailed in their bracket.

Congratulations to our unit's newest Masters: Chhaya Joglekar, Wei-Cheng Kuo

(Junior); Kapil Bhalla, Kayoko Iwasaki (Club); Michael Cohn, Jeanmarie Mariadassou (Sectional); Philip Freiberger (Bronze); Luen-Jyh Luo (Gold).

It turns out that finding an affordable location isn't the only difficulty with holding a sectional. After a lengthy search, we found Wilcox High for our recent fall sectional and would like to return in the spring. The site is available on the weekend normally allocated by District 21 ("D21") for our unit's sectional, but another unit, Modesto, was authorized to use that weekend already.

I should explain that the District is involved in scheduling sectionals for its 21 constituent units to avoid the ridiculous situation of having 21 sectionals scheduled for the same weekend. On the other hand, sometimes it's hard to avoid two sectionals on the same weekend, when you consider that some units hold two sectionals a year, and more units are now holding NLM sectionals as well. In 2018, there were about 40 sectionals in D21. When you exclude some holiday weekends, D21 regionals, and try to avoid the nationals, there has to be some doubling up, but D21 tries to avoid it by allocating preferred or priority weekends to units to let us all plan ahead.

Because our unit didn't find a location in time for last spring, D21 allowed Modesto to use our preferred weekend for a sectional and they got approval for next spring before we were sure we wanted to return to Wilcox. D21 is willing to allow those two sectionals on the same weekend, but the ACBL also has a say in scheduling, and so far the ACBL hasn't agreed to the double schedule. If they won't change their minds, then we'll have to look for another weekend, but it is hard to find a free weekend for the reasons I explained above. That's a little peek behind the scenes at what the unit board does to stage a sectional.

I hope you all have a happy holiday

season, starting with successful sessions at the San Francisco NABC.

Stockton

By *Debbie DeZarn*



This year just flew by as it feels that I just wrote that we hoped 2019 would be a great year at the Stockton and Oak Park Bridge Clubs. And it has! The Sunday game continues to grow and the November Potluck Game looked and tasted like an early Thanksgiving feast. The monthly 99er game has grown and continues to attract newcomers through word of mouth. Thank you to the “regulars” who keep the game going and invite friends to try it out. The November game had a high of 11 pairs attending and enjoying lunch and visiting with new and returning friends.

We must all be getting better because there was only one “big game” this month as the scores tended to cluster more closely. Playing together, Bill Mitchell and Debbie DeZarn each had a personal best for an open game of 71.43% on November 1 at the SBC.

The results of the October 4 ACBL-wide Senior Game have been announced: Ann and Bill Nutting placed 5th overall (1051.5 tables) and 1st in our District 21. Maryanne Sievers and Howard Parker placed 3rd in District 21. Congratulations to all four of you!

New ranks were achieved by Debbie Greenberg, NABC Master, Francie Gillies,

Sectional Master, Doug Mason, Club Master, and Sue Winter, Junior Master. Congratulations and keep up the strong playing. Cliff Smedley recently moved to Lodi and has been playing regularly at both SBC and Oak Park. Welcome Cliff.

I hope no one missed it, but the November Quilt that was displayed on the wall at SBC was created by Mary Westin, one of the newer players. It was hung after the Halloween Quilt, sewn by Maryanne Sievers, came down at the end of October. We hope to see Doris Ashcroft’s beautiful Patriotic Quilt return in 2020 but meanwhile any player who would like to share a seasonal themed quilt or wall hanging to decorate the club for at least a month, please see a Board Member.

Remember, STaC week begins Monday, December 9 at SBC with additional games on Dec. 12, 13, and 15. Last chance to earn Silver Points “at home” until May 2020. Still \$8. The current plan is for a price increase to \$9 per session to begin in January. Lunch will still be included except on Sundays. Lease negotiations are still in progress but the rent and maintenance expenses will be going up. Although the Oak Park Club will not hold a STaC game, the Holiday potluck party will be that same week on December 11. Korey will have signups the weeks before. There will be NO Oak Park games on Christmas and New Years Day. All other regularly scheduled games will be held at both clubs so wear your holiday sweaters and enjoy a wonderful

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

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	pplenary@comcast.net
Unit 502	Doug Couchman	DougCouchman@sbcglobal.net
Unit 502	Marcia Wasserman	marciawasserman@gmail.com
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