

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 2, Number 9 January 2020

San Francisco NABC Board of Directors Meeting

By Jackie Zayac, District 21 National Director

I was really pleased to have the Fall Meetings and NABC in our district. While the weather was a mix of rain and sunshine, everyone seemed to enjoy their time in San Francisco.



Georgia Heth from Morton, Illinois was elected President of the ACBL Board of Directors for 2020. Carlos Munoz from White Plains, New York was elected to fill the remainder of a term as an ACBL 401(k) Trustee through December 31, 2020.

The following three appointments were made in San Francisco:

- William Stine from District 22 was appointed as the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Member of the Year. He will be honored at the Goodwill Reception in Columbus in 2020.
- Chuck Wilkinson of District 10 was appointed the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year.
- Rebecca Rogers of District 17 was appointed as the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year.

The following motions were voted on in San Francisco:

ACBL BOARD REORGANIZATION –
The plan called for reducing the size of the
Continued on Page 3

District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager

I sat down to write this right in the midst of the Winter Holidays, and all of a sudden it occurred to me: possibly one of the best things that happens this time of year is the Monterey Clambake! I sure hope you've made plans to attend, but if not, it's not too late!



This season the Clambake runs from January 6 through 13. As usual, it will be held at the Hyatt Regency Monterey, located at One Old Golf Course Road. The Hyatt has been sold out for some time now, but you should be able to get in up until the last minute at the Hilton Garden Inn. Their phone number is (831) 373-6141. If you have any trouble or want to see if there has been a last minute cancellation at the Hyatt, email me at jmom380@yahoo.com and I'll do my best to help.

There will be wonderful events all week long so I hope you're able to join us. If you're a novice or intermediate player, we have all kinds of games for you! You can play 299er pairs at every 9:00, 1:00 and 7:00 session (or the 99er game at 1:00). If you're feeling a bit more adventurous we have Gold Rush pairs Monday-Friday. Then grab another pair and form a team for the Gold Rush Swiss on Saturday and Bracketed Teams on Sunday!

Continued on Page 9

Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

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

Feb 7–9, 2020

Sacramento NLM Spring Sectional
Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Feb 8–9, 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 14–17, 2020

Fresno Winter Sectional
Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno 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 8, 2020

High School Championship
Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mtn. View CA

Mar 24–27, 2020

March into Spring Reno Sectional
Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Mar 28–29, 2020

Rising Stars I/N Sectional
Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Apr 3–5, 2020

Silicon Valley #507 Spring Sectional
Adrian Wilcox High School, Santa Clara 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 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

Jun 13–14, 2020

San Francisco Sectional
Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jun 27–28, 2020

East Bay 2-Day Spring Sectional
Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland 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

Board from 25 to 13 members. The 25 Districts would remain, but two or three districts would share the same Regional (formerly District) Director. If the plan had passed, District 20 and District 21 would share a new Regional Director. The motion, which required a 2/3 vote to pass (17 votes) was defeated by a vote of 15-10. Although I thought it was a great plan in many ways, I voted no at this time. I did vote yes to remove the gifting of an additional three years on the Board to those who do not run for election as the Regional Director or who are defeated during that election.

TRANSITION TASK FORCE – One or more Transition Task Forces shall be established under the direction of the Governance Committee to recommend approaches to allow the successful transition of current Board non-core responsibilities and committee functions from the Board of Directors to Management and other bodies, as appropriate. The vote was 23-2. I voted yes. It became effective on November 29, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – The Board of Governors asked for the establishment of an Executive Committee to be able to act on behalf of Board of Directors to the extent permitted by law. The Board would select the members of the Executive Committee. The motion failed by a vote of 16-9. I voted no. It needed a 2/3 vote or 17 votes in favor to pass.

VOLUNTEER DINNERS AT NABCS – The ACBL will provide the local committee with \$7,500 to be used by the local committee at their discretion to show their appreciation to local volunteers in lieu of the ACBL hosting a local volunteer dinner immediately prior to the tournament. The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2020.

NABC REGIONAL AND SINGLE SESSION EVENT ENTRY FEES – The

Board would set a range rather than exact pricing for NABC Regional and Single Session Events. The range requested was \$16 - \$22 and would be set six months prior to the NABC. The vote was 3-20-2. I voted no because I think the fee should be the same at all NABCs. If fees are lowered, they should be lowered at all NABCs.

NABC CHILD CARE – Child care will no longer be provided by the ACBL. I submitted this motion because (1) it is a huge liability for the ACBL to provide child care and (2) only two children attended child care in Memphis. Since the average age of our membership is 70+, it is unlikely that a large number of children will need child care in the immediate future. The vote was 25-0. It became effective immediately.

REVISED SCHEDULE FOR SELECTED NABC EVENTS – At the Fall NABC in Atlanta, Georgia in 2023, the approved game times will be 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM for the following events:

- The Super Senior (which is currently 10:00 & 3:00)
- The 0 – 10,000 Swiss
- The 0 – 6,000 Mini Blue Ribbon
- The 0 – 10,000 Fast Pairs
- The Senior Mixed Pairs
- The main event Regional events
- Any event added to future Fall NABC schedules that either has an upper masterpoint limit or that is limited to Seniors.

The vote was 21-4. I voted yes. It becomes effective January 1, 2020.

HAND RECORDS – The hand records used in any National-rated events shall be used only in those events. This applies to all sessions (qualifying and final). All concurrently scheduled NABC events will use the same hand records. The vote was 2-23. I voted no because not all events end at the same time and it could lead to cheating.

ELIMINATE TOURNAMENT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES –

Tournament Disciplinary Committees are eliminated at the local level (regional and sectional). Each District should have a standing committee whose purpose is to hear and decide disciplinary matters. Where such a standing committee does not exist, it must be formed on a case-by-case basis. All members of the Disciplinary Body should be well-respected members of the bridge-playing community. The committee as a whole should represent the diverse makeup of the District. The District Board of Directors selects a Disciplinary Body chairperson as well as members of the committee (or establishes rules for selection of a disciplinary committee when necessary). The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2020.

CDR – ADVOCATE – A person selected by the Charging Party and the Charged Party to represent their respective positions before a Disciplinary Body. The Advocate is not neutral or unbiased. The Advocate is free to aggressively prosecute or defend the Charges. All references to a Presenter were deleted. The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2020.

CDR – DIRECT COMPLAINTS – Direct complaints are eliminated from the CDR. The complainant is the ACBL Recorder who brings a Complaint. The complaint is a written accusation by an ACBL member, a non-member playing in an ACBL sanctioned tournament, ACBL Management, a Unit or a District alleging an act or conduct not in conformance with the ACBL standards that requests that Charges be brought to an appropriate Disciplinary Body for a hearing. The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2020.

TROPHY ASSIGNMENT POLICY – Awards received consequent to first or

second-place finishes ultimately vacated or relinquished are stricken. For the relinquishment of a title:

Any ancillary benefit coming from a 1st or 2nd place finish in a NABC or NABC+ event will be removed or returned for all members of the relinquishing pair or team including:

- Any remuneration of any kind shall be returned to the ACBL
- Any trophy shall be returned to ACBL. The names of the relinquished players shall be struck from any trophy award.
- Any rank change occurring as a result of the relinquished title shall be rescinded, including but not limited to Grand Life Master.
- Any masterpoints and any event (such as Blue Ribbon Pairs) qualification shall be removed.
- Any trophy or award received because of masterpoints received, including but not limited to Mott-Smith, Goren, Fishbein, Player of the Year, Barry Crane Top 500, and Richmond shall be forfeited, and those titles shall remain vacant.

For vacated titles, the following ancillary benefits derived from a 1st or 2nd place finish in a NABC or NABC+ event that was vacated under ACBL Board of Directors' Resolution will be removed or returned for all members of the relinquishing pair or team:

- Any trophy shall be returned to ACBL. The names of the players whose titles were vacated shall be struck from any trophy award.
- Any rank change occurring as a result of the vacated title shall be rescinded, including but not limited to Grand Life Master.
- Any masterpoints and any event (such as Blue Ribbon Pairs) qualification shall be removed.
- Any trophy or award received because of masterpoints received, including but not limited to Mott-Smith, Goren, Fishbein, Player of the Year, Barry Crane Top 500, and

Richmond shall be forfeited, and those titles shall remain vacated.

The vote was 25-0. It is effective immediately.

CLUB SANCTIONED GAMES – How to handle discipline in clubs was amended as follows:

1.1 General Procedures. Club management should deal promptly and fairly with all cases of improper conduct that occur during an ACBL-sanctioned masterpoint game in the club, including cases of unethical practices. Matters that could involve Ethical Violations such as cheating should be referred to the ACBL National Recorder for evaluation.

(a) Club Management should either handle these situations personally or establish a standing committee to review all disciplinary problems.

(b) Club management can handle many behavior problems by discussing them with the offenders, by issuing a warning, or by declaring a period of Probation.

(c) Clubs holding non-sanctioned games may deal with problems arising in these games as they see fit.

1.2 Right to bar an ACBL member. In extreme cases or cases of repeat offenses, club management can bar an ACBL member from ACBL sanctioned games held at that club for either a stipulated period of time or permanently. The reason for such barring must be consistent with ACBL rules and regulations. Following are the types of barring that may be imposed:

(a) Club-sponsored game barring (member is barred from club-sponsored games held at that club). In addition to regular club games, club-sponsored games include Club Championship, Club Appreciation Pair/Team, Club Membership, Upgraded Club Championship, Inter-Club Championship, Junior Fund, Charity Games, Grass Roots

Fund, International Fund, and Educational Foundation;

(b) Extended barring (member is barred from unit, district and ACBL-sponsored games held at that club except for sectionals or regionals held at that facility). All other games held at that club not listed in 1.2 (a) above are considered Unit, District or ACBL-sponsored games including STaCs;

(c) Unit Sponsored Club barring (member is barred from all ACBL sanctioned games held at that club by Club management). See definition of Unit Sponsored Club in the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

1.3 Limitations on the right to bar. No open club may bar an ACBL member, non-ACBL member or members as a class, based upon the player's race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, national origin, physical handicap, or his proficiency at bridge.

These regulations apply to a club with an invitational sanction except that the club has the authority to refuse admittance to an invitational game to someone who does not meet the criteria upon which the invitational sanction is based (e.g. a member who has 500 masterpoints is denied admittance to an invitational game that is limited to members with less than 300 masterpoints). See Codification, Chapter VI, B, Section 2.

1.4 Notice of barring. Club management must notify the ACBL member in writing and send a copy of the notice to the ACBL Club and Member Services Department. The notice must include:

- (a) the ACBL member's name,
- (b) the ACBL member's player number,
- (c) the reason for the barring
- (d) type of barring from section 1.2 (a), (b), or (c)
- (e) effective date and end date, if any, of the barring, and
- (f) the ACBL member's right to appeal

to the District Disciplinary Committee chairperson within thirty days of the notification pursuant to section 7 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations if the barring is for section 1.2 (b) or (c) or section 1.3.

1.5 Right to appeal a club barring. Appeals must be filed with the District Disciplinary Committee chairperson within thirty days following date of the notice of barring. An ACBL member has a right to appeal the following pursuant to section 7 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations:

(a) The portion of an extended barring that makes it “extended”,

(b) A Unit Sponsored Club barring.

(c) A barring due to discriminatory reasons listed in section 1.3 of these regulations. Non-ACBL members and members as a class also have the right to file an appeal based on being barred for discriminatory reasons.

The vote was 25-0 and it is effective January 1, 2020.

TRANSCRIPT – A stenographic or recorded session of a hearing must be kept. Only the parties to the hearing, reviewing Disciplinary Body and the Disciplinary Body who heard either the original matter or the intermediate appeal of the matter may have access to such record. The vote was 25- 0 and it is effective immediately.

Disciplinary Information Sharing – Notices of discipline shall be sent routinely to:

- a. the person disciplined;
- b. the charging party;
- c. the ACBL Board of Directors;
- d. the disciplined person’s District president, secretary and recorder;
- e. the disciplined person’s Unit president, secretary and recorder.
- f. the appropriate NBO of the WBF;
- g. the ABA, if an Ethical Violation (for this subsection, as defined in the CDR);

- h. the ACBL Executive Director;
- i. ACBL staff as determined by the ACBL Executive Director;
- j. the complainant;
- k. the appropriate appellate body chairperson;
- l. the WBF, if an Ethical Violation; and
- m. the NABF, if an Ethical Violation.

The vote was 25-0 and it is effective immediately.

APPENDIX B SEEDING POINTS – The Seeding Points for the Vanderbilt and Spingold Knockout Teams, and Soloway Teams were replaced. The vote was 25–0. It is effective January 1, 2020.

GRASS ROOTS FUND MONTH – May is designated as Grass Roots Fund Month. Grass Roots Events are defined as the Grand National Teams and North American Pairs. I worked with the motion makers to add the following which is underlined:

- Grass Roots funds may be used to provide player stipends for attending the competition at the NABCs and encouraging attendance at the Unit and District finals. In addition, at the discretion of the District, funds may be used to prepare and promote participation by players in Flights B and C at the club level.

I hope the clubs in our district request funds to teach new players how to play Swiss Team Games and I hope that our District fully supports their efforts.

NON CONFORMING EVENTS – Many of you received an email from Peter Marcus regarding this motion, but he was really referring to an event held in District 25 called a KIKO (knock in knock out event).

A motion was previously passed approving small brackets with the intent that it be the top bracket only. Mr. Marcus did check with ACBL Headquarters about allowing small bottom brackets (4 or 5 teams) and he was told it was fine. They had a huge turnout

at their Regional in the bottom brackets for this event and the top four out of five places received gold points in a small bracketed knockout. The fourth-place team did not win any matches, but it received gold points since the top four teams carried over to the second day of the event. I would like to see the KIKO continue, but it cannot pay out gold to four places in a bracket of five teams. I definitely want the event to continue, but with fewer places earning gold points. We did pass this motion which states:

The sponsor of an ACBL-sanctioned tournament must, prior to submitting a schedule for approval or publicizing a schedule, request and receive permission from Management if intending to schedule an event which does not conform to practices in common tournament usage. This requirement applies in all situations, and specifically in situations where existing Conditions or ACBL regulations appear to be silent, ambiguous, or even permissive. This includes, but is not limited to, number of boards played, number of matches played, scoring method, flight or strata limits, bracket size, awarding of Masterpoints and pigmentation thereof, etc. Permission may be denied, or may be granted with specific conditions attached, including ones pertaining to Masterpoint issuance. The vote was 25-0 and is effective June 1, 2020.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS INVITATIONAL CLUB – An invitational club may participate and qualify players for the unit level competition. Masterpoint awards for invitational flights are 50% red/50% black and are equivalent to 80% of sectional rating. The vote was 25-0 and it is effective June 1, 2020.

REVISED CONDITIONS OF CONTEST – for the Vanderbilt/Spingold, Soloway Teams and Bracketed Teams were approved. The vote was 25-0. The Soloway

Teams revised CofC were effective on November 28, 2019. The other two Conditions of Contest are effective on January 1, 2020.

Summer 2025 NABC – The Board approved holding the NABC at the Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, PA on July 19 – August 4, 2025. The vote was 25-0.

Summer 2030 NABC – The Board approved holding the NABC at the Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, PA on July 18 – August 3, 2030. The vote was 25-0.

TRANSFER FROM UNIT 231 DISTRICT 6 TO UNIT 169 DISTRICT 7 – The Board voted to allow ACBL Members in Martinsville City/Henry County Virginia to transfer to Unit 169 in District 7. The vote was 25-0 and it is effective January 1, 2020.

MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF PRICING – ACBL Management will now establish the price of all ACBL products and services. The vote was

22-2-1. I voted yes and it is effective immediately.

NON-AGENDA ITEM – No motion involving a potential financial impact in excess of \$10,000 will be introduced as a non-agenda item motion without either the approval of the Executive Committee or three days' notice to the Board. Such motion will require 2/3 vote of the Board members present for consideration. The vote was 23-2. I voted yes and it is effective January 1, 2020.

CONSENT CALENDAR – The entire consent calendar will be presented to the full Board in the opening session of the Board meeting for approval. Motions that are approved or refused unanimously may be placed on the consent calendar. Motions that have been amended by the committee must be published to the full board at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting to be placed on the consent calendar. One vote is sufficient to remove an item from the consent calendar.

The vote was 24-1. It is effective January 1, 2020.

CODIFICATION CHANGES TO ALIGN ZONE 2 WITH NABF BYLAWS

– The North American Bridge Federation (NABF) is now the Zonal 2 Authority instead of the ACBL. Changes were made to the codification to align with the NABF bylaws. The vote was 24-1. I voted yes and it is effective immediately.

ZONE 2 REPRESENTATIVE AND NABF BOARD MEMBERS

– The ACBL nominee to serve as a representative of Zone 2 to the WBF and the two ACBL appointees to the board of the NABF need not be members of the ACBL Board of Directors. The election procedure is defined in the motion. The vote was 23-1-1. I voted yes and it is effective immediately.

UNFAIR INCENTIVES

– ACBL tournaments (not including STaCs) may not offer discounts, perks or amenities to players classified by affiliation with a particular District, Unit or club to attend that tournament instead of a contemporaneous tournament or club-sponsored event without written permission of the District President or Club Manager affected. Discounts, perks or amenities offered generally to players classified in other ways (e.g. by rank, masterpoint holdings) are permitted. The vote was 21-3-1. I voted yes and it is effective January 1, 2020.

CLUB APPRECIATION GAMES

– All Club Appreciation Games currently scheduled for October are allowed to run the first 15 days of November as well. The vote was 23-0-1-1 (absent). I voted yes and the effective date is October, 2020.

SENIOR PLAYERS

– Whenever the age limit for participation in Senior events is changed by action of the ACBL Board of Directors, any members who qualified as Seniors before the effective date of the age

change shall be grandfathered in and continue to be considered as Seniors after that date, even if their age no longer qualifies for the new Senior definition. Note: This motion does not affect Super Seniors. The vote was 21-3-1. I voted yes and it is effective January 1, 2020.

AWARD FOR ROUND ROBIN QUALIFYING

– When a Round Robin is played to qualify four teams to KO finals:

- 5-6 Teams pays 2 places (GOLD); 3rd receives 20% of 1st – 1/3 Gold and 2/3 Red; 4th receives 10% of 1st (RED)

- 7-8 Teams pays 3 places (GOLD); 4th receives 20% of 1st (RED)

- 9+ Teams pays 4 places (GOLD)

Also, a 4 team single bracket KO is allowed as a 2-session event. It will pay only 1st place at 50% of the award calculated by the KO formula with a bracket size adjustment factor of .520.

The vote was 22-3. It is effective January 1, 2020.

The Hall of Fame Committee requested that they be allowed to appoint two members for the Blackwood Award. The Board of Directors approved the request.

The ACBL Charity Foundation Membership meeting was held on Friday morning, November 29, 2019. There was an election for two four-year Charity Foundation Trustee positions. Russ Jones, 2019 ACBL President, and I were elected as Charity Foundation Trustees beginning January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2023.

If you have any questions or would like more information about any topic, please contact me at jackiezayac@gmail.com.

Hughes

From Page 1

And don't forget, there are TWO free lectures daily: Scott Campbell at noon (you can bring your lunch!), and don't miss our Expert speakers from 6:15-6:45 Tuesday through Saturday.

If you're looking for a bigger pond, we're offering Open Pairs twice a day Tuesday-Saturday (at 10:00/3:00 or 1:00/7:00, Monday is at 1:00/7:00 only). Wednesday through Friday we're also featuring Midflight Pairs for those of you under 3000 points who would rather not swim with the sharks.

If you prefer team games, we have a full roster of them! There are new Knockouts starting every day Monday through Friday and Swiss Teams on Saturday and Sunday. You can also enjoy your morning coffee with some Swiss at our 9:00 Swiss Team events on Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursday/Friday.

With side games available at every 9:00, 1:00 and 7:00 game and single session Swiss teams at 7:00 most evenings, there is a great variety of events to suit every player!

Don't forget to get the upcoming District 21 Regionals on your calendar! The next one is the California Capital in Sacramento May 25-31. Reservations are available at the Doubletree Sacramento, (916) 929-8855. Following that is the All Western in Santa

Clara September 1-7, and then the Reno/Sparks Regional October 5-11.

I hope all of you have a marvelous holiday season culminating with the very festive Clambake in Monterey! Be well; take care of yourself and those you love.

District 21 2020 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

The 2020 GNT season is rapidly approaching. Registration for all Flights is now open. Teams can register using the links on the D21 Website. The Open Flight is the first on the schedule, beginning February 8, with registration closing January 31. Players may register in adjoining Flights (Open and A, or A and B, or B and C). However, the Open Flight and Flight B overlap play days, as do Flights A and C, making it impossible to play those concurrently.



To be eligible for a Flighted Event, the ACBL uses a player's masterpoint total printed on the back of your August Bridge Bulletin. Foreign players need to register with the ACBL well before the event begins. The ACBL determines if the player warrants equivalent ACBL proxy masterpoints, and how many.

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 Yobel

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)

Patricia Anderson, Kensington CA, 497
Richard Beye, Reno NV, 473
James Bryant, Belvedere CA, 508
Holly Chapin, Oakland CA, 502
Will Forest, Santa Cruz CA, 550
Mike Friedman, Sunnyvale CA, 507
Elizabeth Hansen, Clayton CA, 499
Anne Heinline, Reno NV, 473
Thomas Hughes, Seaside CA, 530
Donna Jensen, Roseville CA, 505
Paula Krauss, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Zandra Krischer, San Francisco CA, 506
Melanie Mauldin, San Mateo CA, 498
Matthew Nathanson, Santa Cruz CA, 550
Theresa Panziera, Reno NV, 473
Jean Pressey, Palo Alto CA, 503
Saul Rapkin, Folsom CA, 505
Richard Schanmier, Brentwood CA, 499
David Sherr, Pleasant Hill CA, 499
Peggy Simmons, Hercules CA, 497
Mano Singham, Del Rey Oaks CA, 530
Richard Sundberg, Tiburon CA, 508
Susan Sundberg, Tiburon CA, 508
Mieko Watanabe, Sunnyvale CA, 507
Elliott Zeller, Albany CA, 497

CLUB MASTERS (20 MASTERPOINTS)

Larry Anderson, Los Altos Hills CA, 503
Lucy Ballard, Redwood City CA, 498
Alicia Breyer, Burlingame CA, 498
Cheryl Brodsky, Oakland CA, 502
Lucy Chen, San Jose CA, 507
Deihleen Claffey, San Francisco CA, 506
Carl Ebeling, Redwood City CA, 498
Kenneth Girouard, Aptos CA, 550
Ivan Godard, Palo Alto CA, 524
Mark Green, Lincoln CA, 505
Blair Hull, Piedmont CA, 502
David Jones, Minden NV, 465
Natasha Khandheria, Corte Madera CA, 508
Thomas Kosta, Minden NV, 465
Alice Lowe, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Maureen Martin, San Mateo CA, 498
Xiaomin Misenti, Fair Oaks CA, 505
Ken Phillips, San Anselmo CA, 508
Philip Sanderson, Lincoln CA, 505
Shirley Shi, San Jose CA, 507
Patricia Troughton, Sacramento CA, 505
Bettylee Wapner, Fresno CA, 522
Coralie Wilkes, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Helen Wren, Oakland CA, 502

**SECTIONAL
MASTERS
(50 MASTERPOINTS)**

Bettina Brill, Tucson AZ, 502
Janet Douglas, El Dorado Hills CA, 505
Roger Edelson, El Cerrito CA, 497
Susan Frank, Folsom CA, 505
Loreta Landucci, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Mike McCluer, Moraga CA, 499
Suzanne McMahan, Novato CA, 508
David Pierce, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Joyce Scheer, San Rafael CA, 508
Joy Schenker, Oakland CA, 502
David Slaby, Concord CA, 499
Julie Wong, Tiburon CA, 508
Henry Zhang, Saratoga CA, 507

**REGIONAL
MASTERS
(100 MASTERPOINTS)**

Andre Fargeix, Berkeley CA, 497
Ed Flowers, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Joann Lorber, Berkeley CA, 502
David Mack, Saratoga CA, 507
Gary Moore, Orinda CA, 499

**NABC
MASTERS
(200 MASTERPOINTS)**

Rhian Davies, San Francisco CA, 506
Kayden Ge, Cupertino CA, 507

**ADVANCED
NABC MASTERS
(300 MASTERPOINTS)**

Jeanette Bartz, Clayton CA, 499
Brandon Ge, Cupertino CA, 507
Robert Kaplan, Kensington CA, 502

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

Forrest Bottomley, Lafayette CA, 499
Alex Martelli, Sunnyvale CA, 503
Reddy Raju, Saint Cloud FL, 503
Charlene Reimnitz, Pacific Grove CA, 530

BRONZE

LIFE MASTERS (500/750 MASTERPOINTS)

Marilu Donnici, San Francisco CA, 506
Mary Essig, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Carol Nicoletti, Gilroy CA, 524
David Puryear, Mountain View CA, 503
Shishpal Rawat, Folsom CA, 505
Donald Vance, Los Altos CA, 503
Andrea Ventris, Tiburon CA, 508

SILVER

LIFE MASTERS (1000 MASTERPOINTS)

Steven Drucker, Oakland CA, 502
Martha England, Mill Valley CA, 508
Joe Foster, Atherton CA, 503
Jay Francis, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Joy Gotelli, Stockton CA, 510
Jianming Zhang, Union City CA, 500

RUBY

LIFE MASTERS (1500 MASTERPOINTS)

Anne Keyser, Mountain View CA, 503
Carol Smith, Oakland CA, 502
Dan Wong, Pleasanton CA, 501

GOLD

LIFE MASTERS (2500 MASTERPOINTS)

Jim Liu, Saratoga CA, 507
Nancy Wainer, Soquel CA, 550

SAPPHIRE

LIFE MASTERS (3500 MASTERPOINTS)

Nadia Nilsson, Santa Clara CA, 507
Michael Whitman, San Francisco CA, 506

DIAMOND

LIFE MASTER (5000 MASTERPOINTS)

Bruce Blakely, San Rafael CA, 508

EMERALD

LIFE MASTER (7500 MASTERPOINTS)

Erwin Linzner, Santa Rosa CA, 509

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>Larry Bowerman</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>Miriam Steinberg</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

Happy MMXX/unhyphenated ABC TV show! DC circus continues – fagettaboutit & go have fun @ the Monterey Regional/play our club games. I worked the 1st Fri eve as an NABC volunteer (registration/prize desks, which were side-by-side), & had my usual good time – one of our club regulars, Marcia Mattoon, joined me – she’s always fun to be around, given her ebullience & great sense of humor. Section top prizes (awarded day after the games) were wine (choice of Cab or Chard) & a pretty cool LED flashlight for minors/non-drinkers – we gave away a bunch of flashlights to some kids from China who’d done well on Thxgiving day, plus another 1 or 2 to adults who didn’t want wine. Registration goody was a wireless phone charger – we also had area guides for those who wanted them. Some kind of minor gut flu hit me the following Mon & Tue, so I couldn’t work the other 2 sessions I’d signed up for. Don’t know if the escalator from Powell St BART to S side of Market ever was fixed – it wasn’t working on my night.

The big surprise of the night I worked came from reading the game schedules & the Daily Bulletin. There were 2 Paul McDaniels memorial games on the schedule – one a pair game Fri night, the other a limited team game the 2nd Saturday – I suspect the Woolseys paid the sponsorship fees (Paul did a lot of “handyman” work for them & house-sat at times when they were away), but I didn’t see either of them, even tho there was a high-end team game in the room directly across from my volunteer spot. A short obit for Paul was in the DB (I presume his sister wrote it), but it didn’t state when he died. I knew that he’d gone into hospice early summer (he had some kind of terminal cancer), but neither Eric nor

I ever heard anything afterward. Paul was a great guy & consummate partner – he never barked or screamed, even when playing w/ those of lesser skills than his expert ones. He loved to cook (his spicy vegetarian beans were a fixture at our BBQ Swisses for 20+ yrs). He served on the Unit Board for many years, was a theater technician (props/lighting for Community theaters), a big baseball fan, & had a stentorian voice. We’ll miss the hell out of him – he was 74 when he passed.

We start 2020 as we ended 2019 – with a unit game on Friday the 3rd; Wed unit game is 29th. Wed 11/27, Gerda Janos-Marcia Mattoon topped a 6.5 table 1-winner movement (I play this to limit the sit-out to 2 boards). Chasers were “H”-Miye Takeuchi 2A, Kerstin Barnett-Carrie Stoltzfus 3A/2B, Dick Walker-Aki 4A, Joanne Cobeen-Trudie 5A, Dexter-Gordon 3B, & the Tamms 4B. Wed 12/18 drew 7 tables, which Carol Scott-“H” topped, with Dexter-Gordon 2A, Prez Joyce-Elliot Zeller 3A/1B, Eric-Dick 4A, Sandi-Roseanne 5A, Eric Brondfield-Charlotte Goode 2B, & Meg Gallaway-John Love 3B.

Not much on the in-out front, so I’ll save that for Feb column – rank advancers are listed in this newsletter, so no need to be redundant by wasting column space. I just wish ACBL would get its S**T together w/the software that provides me & my fellow unit electronic contacts the I-O reports so we don’t get so many phantom newbies/transfers-in who show up on the same report as transfers-out – not to mention folks assigned to the wrong unit when they join ACBL New members get assigned to units by zip code, which we were asked to provide 10+ yrs ago. Ours are 947XX (Berkeley & Kensington), 948XX (Richmond/San Pablo/El Sobrante) & some 945’s (El Cerrito/Pinole/Hercules/Rodeo/Crockett). Once a member, one can transfer to another unit (we have 10-20 members who

live in nearby units' turf; East Bay 502 has roughly the same # who live in our turf).

At da club: Roseanne Smith was LM MP champ; Roger Edelson & George Proper tied for top NLMs. 2020, we're closed just 2 Weds (1/1 & 12/23) & Fris (11/27 & 12/25). I'll have put up all the unit game/club champ/NAP Qual game info on our website during the holiday break. The Western Conference has dissolved, so I won't have a clue about 2020 STaCs until after the D21 board meeting in Monterey on the 11th – what I find out, I'll post here in Feb & on our website, We turned a small profit this year, which is OK – we're 501(c)(3) as the unit owns the club. I run it not to lose \$\$ rather than break even – the latter practice, from experience, guarantees you'll lose \$\$.

Our gross annual revenues are far less than \$25K, so we don't have to do any IRS filings. As club manager, I just have to file 1099-MISCs for myself & any relief director who makes more than \$750 in any given year. 2 New Years' resolutions for newbies & escargots:

**** Play faster!** Don't rehash hands until you've played all the boards in the round! Don't overthink hands – your 1st instinct more likely is the correct one. Slow play is unfair to the other players in the game! Not to mention that it irritates the hell out of directors.

**** Learn how to play card combinations;** concomitantly, learn distribution percentages (but also realize that opponents' bidding may indicate variations from the norm) – any Eddie Kantar book on card play is worth a read & will help you improve your declarer play (& defense).

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*

Happy New Year! An expression we use so lightly, unbeknown to what the year ahead will bring. My usual New Year cheer is shared with others peers. If you're fortunate enough to be invited to a party, woo-hoo, you're a lucky dog. If you're not alone, that's a biggie too. All holidays carry so much pressure, and I sometimes feel like the pressured cooker. At least at the bridge table. Did you bring in the New Year with singing, fireworks, and champagne toasts?



New Year, new years, please don't bring me any tears. It's supposed to be a new beginning, but somehow I don't feel like I'm winning. Resolutions are made, over 1.8 million per year. The usual, losing weight, exercising more and making good, healthy food choices made the top of the list. We bridge players can be sitters, and our food choices fall short of nutritious. So eat light and think right. We try and not look to the past and make excuses, but try to rise above our past, and make a better future. This is especially true at the bridge table. If you played badly for a while, think positively and study as well, you too, can be at the top of your game.

We celebrated the holidays with a terrific party. Food, fun, and bridge, gathering card-playing folks, as we ate, drank pop, and had a terrific time. As you all know we love to eat, and will eat almost everything. Seconds is a word you rarely hear at the bridge table. The sweets seem to win out, but truly make you more drowsy and tired. How about offering to serve your opponents and extra piece of cake---ummm.

San Francisco once again hosted the North

American Bridge Championships, which are conducted by the ACBL, and held three times a year across the United States and Canada. The NABC offers platinum, gold and red points. I attended, and it was a real knockout. Won a few rounds, almost fell to the ground, but got up with a few marks of red.

We girls planned a Swiss Team, and took the first. We got the beeebees beat out of us on the second go-round by a ginormous amount of points. We knew that we were playing up, but competing against other opponents, who had over 5,000 master points, seemed a bit futile. I'm sure all who played know your results. If not, check on the ACBL.org site.

I'll end my column on a very fine note. Mr. Andrew Fine, Andy, as you've already read, is our Goodwill Winner. He takes the game seriously, and assists in all aspects of our Board. It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. Go Andy, Andy!

East Bay

By Larry Bowerman

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2020s decade!

First of all, please keep David and Joyce Denyven in your thoughts and prayers. David seems to be making positive progress in his recovery. If you have the time for a phone call or a visit, I know that they would appreciate it (but please call before visiting). Get well soon! We miss you both at the bridge table.

Second, many thanks and kudos to Julie Burnet and Libby Silver for organizing and implementing another successful Unit 502 Fall Sectional on November 16-17, 2019. We had 53.5 tables (212 people) on Saturday morning! Also, thanks to everyone who attended. We hope that you had an enjoyable experience

and that you earned lots of Masterpoints. Finally, thanks to the many helpers (nearly 30 of you) who helped with the food, room set-up and take-down, etc. As Julie and Libby said: "It takes a village, and you all were the hardworking villagers!"

Third, thanks to Marcia Wasserman for planning, coordinating, and implementing the Annual Unit 502 Holiday Party at EBCBC on Sunday, December 15. As usual, the party was sold-out, and all had a wonderful time. The food was excellent, and the bridge was pretty good as well. Thanks also to the many others who contributed their time and food to make the party a success. Special thanks to Andy Wasserman for preparing the turkeys.

To start 2020 (and the new decade) off on a high note, the ever-popular Monterey Clambake Regional takes place from January 6 to 12, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Monterey. I hope that many of you are planning to attend.

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, the regularly scheduled Unit 502 Games in January will take place on Sunday, January 5 and Sunday, January 19 beginning at 12 noon. Lunch will be available at about 11:20 am.

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 Games, there will be EBCBC Sunday games. In January there are two such games, which will take place on January 12 and 26. The games begin at 12:00 noon, and a light lunch will be served before the game.

The next monthly Swiss Teams game is on Saturday, February 1, 2020. There is no game in January because of conflicts with other bridge events. The game starts at 12:00 noon. For further information, contact Greg Vance, Grant Vance, or David Geary.

Tom McGuire and his partner Larry Wyner (from the Santa Rosa unit) had a couple of nice results on the first weekend of the San

Francisco NABC. On Saturday they took first place in Bracket 2 of the Compact Knockout game, earning 9.0 gold (their teammates were Paul Sheinberg and Patricia Hertz). On Sunday, they finished second in Flight Y of the AXY Swiss Teams game, earning 9.67 gold (their teammates were Paul Sheinberg and Asher Nathan). Congratulations and good work!

In the December 15 unit game, Irwin Lichtblau and William Samuels finished in first place (60.10%), Grant Vance and Jessica Lai finished second (59.13%), Barry Kael and Sandi Davis third (58.29%), Andy and Marcia Wasserman fourth (56.97%), and Amy Hansell and Lisa Euphrat fifth (56.49%). As you can see, it was a competitive game!

The December 15 unit game also included a 299er section. Marilyn Teakle and Gay Schrag finished first (60.32%), Joann and Martin Lorber second (59.13%), Allan McAllister and Margaret Garms third (58.73%) and Lili Bassett and Jeff Fountain fourth (57.14%). This was also a competitive game!

Welcome to new Unit 502 members Lisa Fitzgerald, Andy Kovacevic, Zoe Levin and William McNeill. Also welcome to Gunnar Niemi, Joy and Robert Schenker, and Mike Wyman, who have recently transferred into Unit 502! When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements: John McManis to Club Master, Elaine Fripp to Sectional Master; David Snyder 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!

Marcia Wasserman is writing the February column, so please contact her

(marciawasserman@gmail.com) if you

have noteworthy results or other items to report.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2020.

We had the North American Pairs Unit Final on November 10. Five tables participated this year (double our previous year's tables, yay!). This Final awarded red points and qualified players to the regional event (if they choose to go). First place winners were Laura Da Costa & Ray April.

On November 12, we had a one-day restricted sectional with 9 ½ tables participating in the 750 afternoon session: winners N/S, Kathleen & William Coit; E/W, Rosalie Jorgensen & Kathryn Miller (Overall winners). The evening 299er session had 3 ½ tables participating with winners Steve Johnson & June Serio. Our thanks go to directors Kay Chrisman and Richard Meffley.

Our Saturday 9 am beginning bridge lessons begin on January 18. We are offering Easybridge! 1 for those absolute beginners and Easybridge! 2 with a few more advanced topics. Topics are posted and anyone is welcome if they wish a refresher lesson. Meanwhile, please spread the word that these lessons are available.

It is time to start getting ready for the Fresno Winter Sectional on Presidents Day Weekend (February 14-17). We will have some major changes to the schedule for this sectional, mainly in the schedule for Friday and Sunday games, so I will just discuss them. Friday will have the usual Open & 499er pair games at 10 am and 2 pm, however, in honor of Valentine's Day, we will not have the evening Fast pairs session. On Sunday, we will

be breaking a long-term tradition of having a double session Swiss Team game. In order to address dwindling numbers of teams on the Open side in recent sectionals, we are going to try a one-session Swiss Team game at 10 am. This one-session event will be bracketed based on who shows that morning. We are hoping that the bracketed part will allow teams to play more with people of comparable masterpoint levels, and the one-session component will appeal more to those who feel two sessions is just too much. As we are all used to getting out early on Sundays, we will be having a Fast Pairs game at 2 pm; given how fast this game usually is, we should still end before 4:30 pm. Flyers are available at the clubhouse.

We had six games where players had 70% scores in November; all in Fresno. On 11/1, Skip Miller & Cyndi Tingey, 71% in the Friday afternoon Open game; on 11/2, Anthony Toto & Ray April, exactly 70% in the Saturday afternoon Open game; on 11/8, Bill Glass & Victor Greener, 71.5% in the Friday evening Open game; on 11/12, in the one-day sectional 299er game, Steve Johnson & June Serio, 70.83%; on 11/26, Cyndi Tingey & Deb Petersen, 70.42% in the Tuesday afternoon 750 game. There was also an Individual game on 11/23 that was held as a concluding session for the Fall Easybridge! lessons (6 tables attended); Lynda Moller won with a 78% score and Joyce Aiken was second with 70%.

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

December was a good month for Livermore Bridge. Many of our members earned Gold at the Nationals in San Francisco. In fact, there were so many winners that I cannot name them all!

Our members also volunteered, which

helped the tournament run smoothly. The Holiday Party was also a success...our members are the best cooks! Let us hope 2020 brings another banner year for Livermore Bridge.

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.

Encourage your bridge-playing friends to give Duplicate Bridge a try. Many "party bridge" players would enjoy the challenge of duplicate bridge. Our members are friendly and eager to help newer players, so come on down! 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. We also have a Facebook page at ACBL Unit 501.

January 25-26 are the dates of the next Livermore Sectional Tournament. It will be held at Christensen Middle School in Livermore. We will need volunteers to help set up and tear down tables and chairs, make coffee, bring food, organize the snack table, and more. Look for the sign-up sheets that Art will, I'm sure, put out at the club. We have run many successful tournaments, and this one will be no different. We have a reputation for having the best tournament snacks, so all you cooks (see above) should start thinking about what to bring.

Happy New Year to all!

Marin

By Gail Haar

We have several new and new to us members this month - Diane Graves, Barbara Renbaum, Roxanne Richards and Richard Vreeland. Congratulations to new Junior Masters Diane Fanshel, Natasha Khandheria, Chris Shipp, Ligra Shipp and Lewis Tanenbaum and to new Club Masters Norma Aroy & Peter Evans. There was only one Big Game this month, Faraday Hemingway & Sissel Grove (74.59% at Hoppe.) Unit game winners were Gene Simpson & Laura Kenney (November 24); Gail Haar & Bob Thompson and Tracey & Keith Bauer (December 15.) Well played everyone!

Barbara Seagram returned to Marin in triumph just before Thanksgiving. 26 tables of new, intermediate and experienced bridge players practiced Defense Signals and End Plays in a full day of learning and fun. Barbara is such a dynamic teacher and everyone responded to her sense of humor,



her patience and her practical advice. Thanks to organizers Martha England and Mimsy Kaegi for planning the day and providing the excellent lunch.

Unit 508's annual Holiday Party in support of Homeward Bound of Marin was a resounding success. Our home cooks provided a bountiful array of turkeys and hams, side dishes and desserts and the Homeward Bound staff carved and served and cleaned with their usual efficiency and good cheer. Many thanks to Kathy Sanders and her committee for all their hard work organizing the pot luck, creating the beautiful (and reusable) table markers, staffing the bar, and coordinating with Homeward Bound. Oh, and we played bridge. There were 32 tables, all the room can hold; 6 of them were 199ers, a happy first for the unit. Homeward Bound reported that our unit gave a whopping \$16,500 at the party! They have received checks from our members outside the party, bringing the total to \$23,215 with additional donations expected by the end of December. With Unit member David Smith's very generous 2X match, that means our total this year so far is \$69,645.



Barbara Seagram circulating as declarer tries to find the best strategy!



Happiness is good food and drink and good bridge.



Our Marin players flocked to the San Francisco NABC. We had winners at all levels from our under 99ers to our experts and professionals, too many to list but congratulation to you all. And thanks too to those who volunteered to staff the various desks at all hours of the day and evening.

The hot off the press 2019 edition of the Unit Directory is available through any of our club directors for only \$2 (the printing cost

only). There are lots of updates and additions included, so be sure to get one so you can stay in touch with your old and new favorite partners.

Henry Kingdon has a battery of Beginning Bridge Classes starting in January – learn more about them and other available classes on the Classes Page of the unit website www.marinbridge.com.

Apropos of rainy season in Northern California. Do you know why the animals on Noah's Ark couldn't play bridge? The elephants were sitting on the deck!

Monterey

By Mary Block

Good luck to everyone playing in the Clambake the first week in January. Don't forget to help out at the Hospitality desk, representing our unit. Just a short time before and after each game is all that is required. Donna Jett has been the volunteer coordinator for many years and is looking for a replacement to take over for her.

Wally Thorpe passed away after a long illness. He was a veteran member of the unit and former club owner and director. His many friends supported him in his last years and days.

The Holiday Party was a great success. Amy Pofcher, Susan and Larry Mazzei deserve many thanks for their hard work. The heavy rain that Sunday exacerbated their task. Pat Heller and Fran Soskins and other members of the Board of Directors also were helpers. Eighteen tables of players enjoyed a fine lunch and enjoyable bridge play in the attractive venue of the Carmel Women's Club.

The unit welcome Deanna Woodhour as a new member. The following members advanced in rank last month: Julie Anongos, Sam Calloway, and Nancy Green are now Club Masters; Celeste Falor is a Sectional Master, and Marianne Van Gelder is a Ruby Life Master. Marianne is leaving our area for the state of Georgia. She is a long-time club owner and game director and teacher.

The new Bridge Center is settling in nicely. The sink and counters are in place, making hosting games easier for the club owners and more attractive for the players. The first heavy rains were a test, but parking and bathroom access turned out to be easier than many may have expected. You are reminded about parking: one handicapped space immediately in front of the building and four designated spaces across the street. There is also street parking across the street and street parking along Del Rey Gardens as you enter and exit the area. And ample parking at the Moose Lodge is not that far away. In the interest of research, your reporter counted her steps from car to front door: 170 steps each way, and I don't exactly have a long stride. For those of you into fitness, one round trip gives you one-third of your daily thousand steps.

Newer players who have survived the challenge of playing in the Clambake should

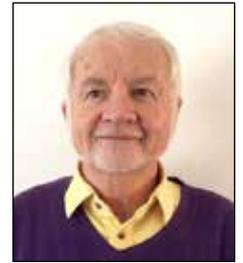
think about sharpening your game even more by playing up in one of the open games at the bridge center, Monday, Tuesday afternoon and evening, and Thursday afternoon all offer you that opportunity. The club owners, Doug, Janet, and Larry are all gracious and accommodating hosts.

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

A good time was had by all at the National Tournament in San Francisco, especially on the day when we chartered a bus to take us to the city and back. From what I understand, the ride home was even better when several bottles of wine magically appeared on the bus. Unit 512 knows how to ride in style!



No one had a better time at the tournament than Brooke Farkas who picked up the Gold Points she needed to achieve Life Master status. Brooke worked very hard over the years to earn it and we're all very happy for her and a big thank you goes to Carol Morse who helped her over the line. Way to go Brooke! I'll have our results in next month's column.

The bad news for our unit is that Don Powell is moving South to the Palm Springs area. One of the reasons we have such a great unit is the leadership provided by Don. He has been Unit President forever and our representative at district meetings. He was responsible for securing our extra point games and to top it off, he even made the lunches for our unit games; that's just a few of the things Don did for us. People like him don't come around very often

and we were very lucky to have him. Good luck Don! You will be sorely missed by all of us.

The cold and flu season is about to hit us so please stay home if you think you might be sick. We have some fragile bodies in our unit and we don't want anyone exposed to any illnesses. Thank you.

Tom Jacobson was on fire in November in the Napa Friday games! He won 3 out of 4 of the games and showed his versatility by winning with 3 different partners: Gerry Fox, Sigrid Price, and Panette Talia. Danielle Hejmanowski & Britt-Marie Eldred won the other game. Cynthia Crawford & Sylvia Landt and Rick Davis & Joanne Wegsten won the Unit games.

Sue Vogtlin & Bob Lohse won a game in Rio Vista and tied another with John Shick & Judith Fleshman. Joyce Vass & Chandler Stauffer, and Cliff Crew & John Krebs were also victorious.

We had 8 games and 8 different winning pairs for once in Sonoma. The winners were: Tom Jacobson & Panette Talia, Evelyn Holtz & Barry Samuel, Mardi Schma & Denny Olmsted, Suzie Davis & Leandra Stewart, Al Iapicca & Theila Smith, Sigrid Price & Nancy Gunn, Marsha Horowitz & I, and Carol Fraser & Bruce Irvine. Carol & Bruce are a C pair and won their game the day before the Nationals started when we had 24 A & B pairs preparing for the tournament. Way to go Carol & Bruce!

Bob Bruce, a new player from Sandy Hick's class had a 70% game with Allison Ash in the Tuesday 499er game and Bob also had another win with David Becker. Jean Behse & Marilyn Edwardes had a very nice 71% game, while Steve & Brenda Perry won the other game.

Two players who have been out of the game for a long while passed away recently. They are Dudleigh Mudgway and Eleanor Polimeni, both very nice people who will be missed.

Happy New Year!

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

Wasn't it a super holiday party this year? It was so well organized, thanks to Kathleen Quinn and Sheila Hochman. Everyone brought such yummy food, plus turkey, ham and drinks were provided by the unit. After we stuffed ourselves, several awards were given: the Service Award to Leslie Altick for her service on the Board; and the Sportsmanship Award to Harriel Shea for her ethical, friendly and gracious manner. Paul Davis was also recognized as a recipient of the 2019 District 21 Goodwill Award, for outstanding contributions to bridge. We enjoyed our free unit game, with Will Watson's expert directing. Our generous players donated nearly \$6000 for Second Harvest and the Mountain View Community Services Agency. Well done!



About two-thirds of our unit members are not yet life masters, and we want to mentor and support our newer players. If you are new to Unit 503 we offer you a warm welcome with



Leslie Altick



Harriel Shea



Dan Thatte & Paul Davis

several ways to get involved. First is Saturday Sampler, a monthly class for beginners; on December 28, Anna Ravenscroft will teach Supporting Opener's Suit, with additional classes on the 4th or 5th Saturday of each month. This winter Kathy Harper will teach Beginning Bridge, Deadly Defense and Supervised Play. Frank Smoot will offer Intermediate IV, for

advancing players, beginning January 23. Sign up for classes on our website, PaloAltoBridge.org. Our free lecture series resumes on Tuesday, January 14 with How to Play the Odds as Declarer by Ron Carr. Then on January 28 Anna Ravenscroft and Alex Martinelli will help us improve our game using BBO and Pianola. Our lecture handouts are all on our web site... what a great resource!

And now, let me introduce to you the new writer of our Diamond in the Ruff: Judi Gentry. Judi grew up in LA but when she went to "Cal" she knew that "NorCal was the place for me." After Cal, Judi worked as a social worker in downtown Oakland, then as a mom with two kids (who are now in their 50s). She went back to paid work teaching communication and writing grants for a local school district and also the Y, where she has been active. But when Judi attended a financial planning workshop, she thought, "Hmmm, this is for me." After earning her CFP she worked for NOVA, linking employers with workers..."the best job I ever had"...til she retired to care for her grandchildren. Judi had never played bridge, but to keep busy while being "grandma," she took lessons and got hooked. She plays with regular partners. To assist our Unit 503, Judi wrote newsletter-style articles for our web site...so our Diamond in the Ruff column will be in capable hands.

It has been a lot of fun writing our Palo Alto column, and y'all have been very supportive. I hate to say goodbye, but you will continue to see me at the bridge table til I move to Santa Barbara in the spring.



Judi Gentry

Reno

By Judith Robyns

The year is coming to an end. With that, we have had our annual election. We will welcome 3 new board members: Jackie Chandler, Paul Ferber and Stella Marino. Thanks go to the board members who are retiring. Bob Robbins served for 3 years at various positions. He was always willing to help with any project. Sandy Powell did a wonderful job as the author of our Diamond on the Ruff articles last year, and Ruth Swain put in countless hours on our sectional tournaments as tournament director. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Our new site, The Mathewson Bridge Center, is getting closer to completion. The grand opening is scheduled for February 14, 2020; more to come on that.

We finished the STaC games at our club. We had some outstanding results.

On December 11, Bob and Judy Robyns had a 70.83% game and were first overall in the 749er game.

On December 13 our club claimed the top 3 spots overall in the open game. Bob Luebke and Charlotte Falk had a 71.06% game and were first overall; Kathy Lane and Don Parsons had a 68.90% game and were second overall; Tom Howell and James Paschal had a 67.59% game and were third overall.

New Master achievements this month: (Junior): Edwin Clough; Jan Clough; Roland Grijalva; (NABC) Guy Archambault.

Happy Holidays.

Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

I admire the players at the club who have played with their partners for decades. It requires great patience and persistence to maintain a partnership; I checked in with a sampling to learn more about their partnership successes (I only interviewed one representative from each pair). Intimacy stood out as the recurring theme—the people I interviewed either became close friends or got married. Being able to resolve conflict played a major role in partnership longevity as well.



Ali Topcu and Annie Christensen began their partnership around 32 years ago at the Dante Club. Annie was a relative beginner while Ali had around 1000 MPs, but he was drawn to her personally, so they began to play together. They progressed together with a mutual investment of time and work learning to adapt to each other's methods and evolved together, building a strong partnership based on respect and "social and intellectual maturity." "When you genuinely like your partner, you are motivated to improve," Ali pointed out. "We correct our errors together and accept faults; we are honest about our mistakes," he explained. He also pointed out that they never discuss errors at the table. "It consumes energy from partner," added Ali. He makes sure to never embarrass Annie; if something goes awry, he just swallows it. Although Ali has had many great partners over his bridge career, Annie is currently his only partner.

Ted Muller and Albert Chow met at a sectional in the 1970s while he was living in Reno. They became friends and eventually started up an amazing partnership 45+ years ago. (For about 20 years while he was immersed in his career, they only played at

sectionals). “It’s important to get along and have rapport and be friends,” stated Ted. “The best partnership has one operator (risk-taker) and one straight man,” he mentioned. Because they are both easy-going, they were able to make changes over the years and develop a highly complex system. Although they only have time to play twice monthly, they still manage to play at sectionals.

Ted’s best partnership advice was, “Don’t yell and scream; never say a word—just move on. The guilty culprit knows what he did wrong!” Ted has also partnered with wife Barbara for 23 years and has at least 4 other partners.

Judi Callaham has played 20+ years with Dave Vidaver. They currently only manage to squeeze in a couple of times a month together. They met around 1994 when Dave moved to Sacramento and became fast friends. Dave is never critical at the table; they discuss the game later over a glass of wine and try to fine-tune their systems to avoid further mistakes. Judi has around 15 other partners, including Ted Muller for 20+ years. “I started playing with him so I could become a better player,” she explained. Judi’s partnership advice is to treat your partner as you want to be treated. “Bridge is supposed to be fun!” she added.

Ronnie Mc Murdie Jones partnered with (now deceased) husband John for 43+ years. They first met at the bridge club in Davis, later getting married and developing special agreements over the years. “I could read him like clockwork.” She continued, “He was a real perfectionist. We would work out our disagreements on a piece of paper; he liked to get things in order,” she explained. “I do get irritated,” she admitted. “But I am very good at controlling myself.” Ronnie currently has 3 regular partners, including husband Dick Jones.

Eileen “OJ” Ojakangas has played with Leona Hanson for 48 years. They first met at bridge in Davis after she moved there from Canada. (Dorothy Mc Murdie has also partnered with Leona for decades). “What’s kept us together is she knows too much,” jested OJ. They developed a fabulous friendship over the years, working, raising kids and playing bridge. They have always played well together. “She’s more conservative, a rule player while I’m more aggressive and creative. Sometimes we disagree and I’ve been upset, but it never lasts very long.” She attributes the success of their partnership to their ability to see each other’s point of view. “That’s good for every partnership to remember,” she added. OJ also has a multitude of other partners, but she and Leona manage to play 2-3 times a month and go to tournaments together where they have been quite successful, placing in the top 10 nationally twice in Women’s Pairs..

Jan and Gary Soules have been partnering for over 26 years. Gary recounted that in 1993 “I didn’t have anyone in my life. I was looking for someone who had potential and I was attracted to her.” In the beginning, it was a challenge because Jan had much more limited experience, so Gary decided to teach her Ronnie Anderson’s Match Point Precision. “Because she’s very disciplined and a good learner, we’ve gotten a lot of good results,” shared Gary. He likes this system because you indicate your point count from the beginning. When you know you don’t have a fit, you don’t investigate. The opponents often get out of line, but although you have no game, you know it’s your hand and double the opponents. Since I’ve noticed that some of the most emotional reactions I’ve observed often come from a multitude of married partnerships, I asked Gary how they solve their disagreements. “It’s very difficult when

you are married; there's too much personal action going on." He suggested the best way to resolve disagreements was "to always agree with your wife!"

Ben and Betty Miller set the record at 49+ years of all the pairs I interviewed. They met at the bridge club when he was just out of law school and she was a homemaker with 5 kids. They were initially opponents and Ben asked Betty to play. "She was a good, solid player". They were partners for 1 ½ -2 years and eventually got married. Although Ben had many other partners before they were married, he now only plays with Betty. "I have a good partner," he explained. I asked him the secret to their longevity. "We sort of tolerate each other. We try to discuss our differences. Both of us think we're right, so we accept a lack of agreement. We have to respect each other. It's only a game, not the most important thing in our lives." (Ben is a well-known tax lawyer and consultant who has had 5 cases before the US Supreme Court. They also are very busy with a family of 7 kids, 14 grandkids, 9 great-grandkids and have 2 more on the way!). Ben elaborated, "We all think about bridge in different ways; people's brains operate in different manners. It's right to the person who is thinking about it."

They have had an excellent partnership through the years, placing 2nd in some regionals, once just under Barry Crane!

It's quite an accomplishment to maintain a successful partnership for decades and I am envious of their longevity. May they all have many years of great games ahead of them!

Please feel free to e-mail me the names of other long-term partnerships at mirsteinberg@yahoo.com.

There will be a NLM sectional on Friday, February 7, through Sunday, February 9 at the Sacramento Bridge Center, 2035 Hurley

Way, Suite 270, in Sacramento. The Friday night pairs game will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday pairs games will be at 10:30 and 3; Sunday's game will be at noon. Lunch will be supplied on Saturday. Please contact David Britton-Ohl for partnerships at dands@britton-ohl.name or at 916-690-1981. Dave Willmott is Tournament Chair and can be contacted at dwillmott@yahoo.com or 916-709-8958. Ted Muller will be the director.

By the way, the last column (which I actually wrote) was attributed to my husband, Ben Glovinsky, through a miscommunication. Ben is sadly a bridge drop-out and had no connection with the column except e-mailing it to Rich for the paper!

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Happy New Year, Unit 506ers! Was it really 20 years ago that we rang in the new millennium? Remember Y2K – how the electronic world was going to crash to a halt when the clock turned over? And now it's 2020. How time flies when you're playing bridge!



Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We kicked it off with the very special treat of the NABC here on our doorstep. Tournament Chair Jim Leuker and his hardworking crew put on a terrific event, and it seemed that all of Unit 506 came down to the Jukebox to play. Hope everyone enjoyed the electric atmosphere of the NABC: the thrill of competition, the swirling hordes of bridge players, the late night postmortems in the bar, spotting famous big shots, meeting people from all over the world. I had a fascinating political discussion with a couple

of women from Brazil, whose opinion of their president was about as low as our president's ratings here in the blue Bay Area. Broaden your horizons at the bridge table! Congrats and thanks to Jim and all his many volunteers.

Looking ahead to the new year, the San Francisco Winter Sectional is right around the corner on January 18 and 19. The tournament will be held at our usual location, the Janet Pomeroy Center out by the zoo, and will feature as always great snacks and great bridge. Go to unit506.org for all the details.

Help out your friends and family with those New Year's resolutions: whether it's keeping the mind sharp, meeting new friends, or taking up a new interest, bridge is the answer! (Well, we can't really help with that "gotta lose weight" resolution – unless you get so absorbed in bridge that you forget to snack!) Quicktricks Easybridge! 1 lesson series starts on February 3. Go to the club website at www.quicktricks.org for the full schedule and details.

Congrats to the following players who have earned new stripes: new Junior Masters Diane Hidy and Edie Singer; Club Masters Marc Lorenzen and Lori Sherk; Sectional Master Paul Melodia; Regional Master Lynne Crawford; NABC Master Amber Lin; Sapphire Life Master Mykaell McCarthy; and – drum roll please! – Diamond Life Master Betsy Marcus.

Welcome to a big batch of new Unit 506ers: new members Newton Allen, Allan Blank, Jacob Byrne, Paul Colfer, Marilyn Flores, Linda Grimes, Sheila Larsen, Molly Leveroni, Jess McPeake, Katie Olson, Paula Pagano, Catherine Payne, Michael Peirce, Mitchell Schoenbrun, and Hans Werner; and transfers Harold Hayashi (BER), Doug Kushner (Seattle), Kevin Lin (Central Ohio), Maneeb Mellem (Dallas), Cecilia Valdivieso

(Washington DC) and Susan Wartell (Southern Michigan). Everyone be on the lookout for these 21! new players and say hello and Happy New Year when you meet them at the table.

Finally, we close the old year by sadly saying farewell to Alice Sobel, a longtime San Francisco player, who passed on in late 2019. Alice graced our tables for years, and as her obituary noted, she loved the game and took great pride in her bridge accomplishments. She will be missed; our condolences to her family and friends.

A new year is always full of hope and promise – let's make the most of it, at the bridge table and in all our endeavors. See you at the table.

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

Another year is behind us and a fresh year ahead. Happiest New Year to all reading this column and to their loved ones whether bridge players or not!

Unit 498 closed out 2019 with our annual Holiday Party and Game on December 14. For the first time our unit held a two-site open game with the Chinese American Club. This format meant increased Masterpoints for the winners. Look for a list of winners at www.sanmateobridgecenter.com/unit-498-results.

At the game, representatives from the Alzheimer's Association were on hand in order to present Unit 498/Team Peninsula with a plaque acknowledging the outstanding contribution which was made to the Association during the June 2019 campaign. The efforts and generosity of all participating raised \$22,000 for this worthy cause. A remarkable achievement! To jump start the 2020 campaign, an Apple watch was raffled,

raising \$525 for the cause. Barbara Lewis took home the prize!

Janelle Van Rensselaer, president of Unit 498, announced that Bob Johnson has attained the rank of Life Master, earning a heartfelt round of applause for that achievement. Bob earned this title at the San Francisco NABC where many Unit 498 members both played and volunteered their time to ensure that the tournament ran smoothly. Congratulations to Bob and to all who took home red and gold points and sincere thanks to all who served as volunteers!

Six Peninsula Youth Bridge students from San Mateo, Mills and Nueva High Schools and three adult volunteers participated in the activities at the S.F. NABC Junior Day. Janelle co-chaired the committee that planned that special day for players 25 and under.

Adding to the tributes, Janelle announced that Jeanie Kwong will be honored at the Monterey Regional with the President's Award for her tireless efforts on behalf of Peninsula Youth Bridge.

Jeanie graciously accepted notice of this honor and quickly cited the other folks who work with our youthful players - "I don't do this alone. It is a team effort."

Finally, Janelle presented outgoing past president Jackie Lowenberg with a certificate and gift in recognition of her selfless support of the goals of Unit 498 throughout her membership, particularly in her capacity as President. Jackie will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the Longest Day in 2020 and will bring her leadership to bear in any capacity needed to assure continued Unit 498 success. Thanks, Jackie.

On January 4 and 5, Unit 498 will host the next set of NAP qualifying games for District 21 at Fattoria e Mare under the superlative direction of Lynn Yokel. Check for details on the District 21 website.

Our next unit Game will be held on February 1. Look for details and your invitation in mid-January. If you have not been receiving e-mail invitations to the unit games, and wish to do so, please let us know by sending an e-mail to acblunit498invites@gmail.com, providing us your e-mail address. We will add you to the mailing list!

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Tim Anderson, Sunny Balson, William Balson, Kristine Birge, Thomas Birge, Catherine Bunnell, Christine Ely, Jeanne George, Francene Gonek, Elena Liu, Stephanie Liu, Denise Marks, Mitzi Marvel, Isabelle Rugg, Gisela Schecter, Cornelia Tilney, Julian Ting, Juan Toledo, David Weight. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Jay Bergeron, Anne Horstmann; to Club Master, Seva Sokolov; to Sectional Master, Deborah Krass; to NABC Master, Kit Morse.

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

Due to our ongoing commitment to bridge education and encouraging new players, Unit 550 will hold a special Expert at Your Elbow event on Wednesday, February



12 at 6 pm. This special event is only offered once every few years and is for players with 50 MPs or less. This event is limited, so sign up at the Bridge Center or with Nancy Wainer at nlmbridge@yahoo.com. Watch for more information in my next column.

Several Unit 550 members distinguished themselves at the Fall NABC in San Francisco.

Peer Gelfand took a first in the NABC 10K IMP Pairs. Shirley & Ken Llacera placed first in A & B in the Thursday AM Side Series. Finishing in the top 25 % of MP earners were; Peter Gelfand, Les Rabiega, Ken Llacera, Jim Slinger and Ken Gamble. Well done folks.

High Scores in club games were earned by Pam Benz & Peter Andrews, 74.7%; and Carol Avenmarg & Steve Smith, 71.88%.

Congratulations to the following folks for attaining new Master status ranks: John Walker and Robert Johnson, (NABC); Cynthia Copple & Lou Browning, (Club); Bradford Cotel, (Junior).

Welcome to new Unit 550 members; Julia Akin, Rob Boucher, Cheryl Henriksen, and Jonathan Wong.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Judy Ford who passed away suddenly in November.

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. 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.

Our regular unit game will be on Saturday, January 18 at 10 a.m. Don't forget to bring a lunch.

Beginner bridge lessons start up again on January 15 with Nancy Wainer teaching the afternoon class at 12:30 and Bette Harken teaching the evening session at 5:30. The first class is FREE, but advance sign ups are required due to limited classroom space. Contact Nancy or Bette or call the Bridge

Center to reserve a spot in the first class.

Introduction to Defense classes will also be offered by Nancy on the first and third Wednesday mornings at 9:45 beginning in February.

Sydney Reuben offers her Supervised Play for Novices and Re-entry players on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm.

Ken Gamble offers his Expert at Your Elbow classes at 10:30 am on Fridays. Ken will also be holding 2/1 Workshops on January 4 and January 25 at 1 pm.

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 Facebook page. As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

It's been raining here. Such good news in this part of the world, both to stop the wildfires and to produce that emerald green landscape that's so beautiful in Sonoma County in the Spring. You can't pick a more beautiful weekend than March 7 and 8 to come to our Spring Sectional. It will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Santa Rosa. We'll have Two Session Open Pairs, Single Session Open Pairs, and Single Session 299ers on Saturday. Pairs with 20 or fewer points get their second session free. On Sunday, we will have Open teams and B/C/D teams plus a single session 299er team game in the morning. For more details see <http://acblunit509.org/games-2/sectionals/>.

From our perspective in Unit 509, the NABC was outstanding. I wish I had a total of how many 1 1/2 hour road trips we traveled,

how many 100s or 1000s of dollars we spent on parking, and how many 1000s we spent for hotel rooms. What really impresses me is that pairs or teams with at least one Unit 509 player scored in the overalls 230 times! Pretty darn good for a unit with 328 members! Our heavy hitters for a single event were Bo Han Zhu who won 33.1 platinum in the Keohane North American Swiss Teams, Shelly Dunietz who won 25 platinum in Whitehead Women's Pairs, and Bob Klein and Erwin Linzner who won 23.47 gold in 0-10,000 Imp Pairs. Section tops for their strats were earned by Tony Jackson, Kathy Venton, Jane De Briyn, Bob Klein, Erwin Linzner, Sara Rothmuller, Barbara Simon, Wayne Kaneko, Bo Han Zhu, Jim O'Brien, Robert Goetzinger, Lynda McGuire, Katherine Schram, Margaret Senneff, Karen Weissberg, Cathy Netz, Conrad Larkin, Harley Conner, Abbe Cohen, Gloria Hersch, Alan Chian, Bo Chian, Vince Taylor, Janice Gullarian, Ed Flowers, Kim Fusch, Heather and Mikal Clark, Jan Conklin, and Howard Neckel. Of special note is that one of our teams, Janice Gullarian, Ed Flowers, and Jim & Judy Duport, with 787 combined masterpoints won 7.68 gold in a compact knockout, coming in second to a team with 74,806 masterpoints. That must have been a thrill!

Unit 509's annual Holiday Party was on Sunday, December 15, at the Oakmont Golf and Country Club. We had a great brunch with eggs benedict, lox and bagels, and the works. A good time was had by all (at least by the winners). First in their strats were Susan Kirn, Bill Kirn, Winifred Whooley, Jan Lee, Maxine Reagh, Cathy Wagener, Harley Conner, Bill Walton, Jennifer Jones, Bob Klein, Barbara Curley, Elizabeth Sather, Jacqui Ortiz, Patricia Gittings, Brian Sullivan, Cecelia Zachar, Linda Marin, and Barbara Norman. Our

annual meeting found us fiscally secure and netted us 2 new board members, Jim Duport and Brian Sullivan.

As we mentioned last month, Nancy Gunn will be taking over management of the Petaluma Bridge Club starting January 16. Open games will continue to be held at noon on Thursdays and Saturdays at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 N. McDowell Blvd, in Petaluma. Lessons will also be available Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30 for \$15 per session, with a discount if players attend the lesson and game on the same day. The first lesson series on Defensive Signals will begin on Thursday, January 16, and will cover attitude signals.

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. For more information, contact Kathy at bridgegalleryca@gmail.com.

As of December 19, we had no big games (70%+) since our last report. This has not happened before, at least in the last 2 years. Our players must have given their all at the NABC, and had little oomph to spare for our club games.

At the end of November, the ACBL notified us about 4 players who earned a new

rank. Our two new Club Masters are Jeremy Brott and Betsy Todd. Brian Sullivan has earned the NABC Master rank, and Peter Lit is now a Gold Life Master. Since that time, Tony Jackson has earned the rank of Life Master while at the NABC. Congratulations all.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

With 2020 foresight, we can now clearly see another year coming into view. I wish my regular and irregular readers a happy New Year!



Our Unit 507 holiday party just before Thanksgiving this year was the best-attended in a number of years. We had to keep setting up tables as attendees arrived for a potluck dinner and a unit pairs game. We ended up with a full house of 29 tables. Mischel Postas coordinated the event with her usual skill and our unit members came through with a number of tasty contributions. Many hands contributed to setting up and taking down the room. First overall in all strats in the open game was Gang Zhao. Section tops in the open game were earned by Vilas Namjoshi, Amar & Susama Chunder, and some players from other units. First overall in all strats in the limited game was Matthew Rode. First in the other direction were Carolyn Drozdiak & Anne Wilson.

I have more Unit 507 success stories from recent tournaments. A number of unit members commuted to play multiple days at the Nationals in San Francisco (and a number, including yours truly, came home with colds). In national events, Michael Rosenberg's team was sixth in the Reisinger BAM and his team tied for fifth in the inaugural Soloway Knockouts. In the Nail Life Master

pairs, Ryan Wessels placed sixth and Kevin Rosenberg placed ninth. Frank Xie had a section top. Leila Sink placed second in the under 6,000 mini-Blue Ribbon pairs, while Cadir Lee had a section top. In the Senior Mixed pairs, Barbara & Bruce Luttrell placed fifth, Dianne Shannon placed 11th, and Mindy Foos & Michael Fleisher had a section top. In the Mixed Swiss teams, Cheryl Mandala & Yul Inn placed eighth.

Winning their regional knockout brackets at the Nationals were: Michael Rosenberg; Aravind Alwan, Brandon Ge, Min Bai, Sarah and Andrew Chen; Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean (prevailing over the Bill Gates team); Han-Yu Chang; Anne Wilson & Carolyn Drozdiak; the Chen clan, Steve, Sarah, Charlie & Andrew; and Linda Rocha, Betty Rosa, Terry Ahern & Timothy Maloney. Prevailing in their respective two-session Swiss team strats were Marcia & Robert Dean; Charlie Chen & Kayden Ge; Linda Rocha, Betty Rosa & Terry Ahern; Timothy Maloney; Steve & Sarah Chen (tie); Arif Janjua & Clark Millikan (tie); Anne Wilson, Carolyn Drozdiak, John Stremel & Judy Reeve (tie) and Elenalani Lam. The ties were with teams from other units.

Winning in two-session regional open pair events at the Nationals were Ravi Thomas & Surendra Mandava and Kun-Chieh Wang. Prevailing in their strats were Lynn Shannon & Han-Yu Chang, Donghui Lu, Stephen Tu & T-C Yang, and Michael Bodell. Section tops went to Michael Fleisher & Mindy Foos, Jonathan Yue & Aravind Arwan, and Richard O'Brien.

Winning limited pairs events at the Nationals were Archana Rathnakar & Rajiv Bajaj and John Stremel. Earning strat tops were Christy Hartsell, Arun Kumar, and John Stremel (twice). Hari Narayanan had a section top.

At the Coral Springs regional in Florida, Jory Segal won a two-session limited pair event.

During the December STAC week, the following players had games of 65% or better: Joan Schlinkert & Jackie Hiatt, Fran Dickman & Norman Marks (overall 1st with 74.11%), Miwako Wong & Norman Marks, and Erin Gove & Malcolm McLaughlin. I usually list more players in this category, but it's possible the local STAC week turnout was down due to the recent Nationals.

Congratulations to our unit's newest Masters: Florence Jones, Ravi Puvvala (Junior); Steven Jacobson (Sectional); Jeff Weaver (Regional); Jung Hu, Andrew Sinclair (Life); Terry Ahern (Bronze); Colin Hemsley (Silver); Jeff Hack (Gold).

In my last column I explained that it takes approval at the district and national levels for our unit to schedule a sectional. I'm glad to report that the logjam broke and we will be able to hold our spring sectional on our usual, preferred weekend, April 3 through 5, in the upcoming year, though the Modesto unit will be holding its sectional the same weekend.

I hope you've enjoyed your holidays, have your health, and have made a resolution to enjoy more duplicate bridge.

Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn

Happy New Year to all the Stockton duplicate bridge players and out of town guests. We are pleased to remind you that lunch and coffee will continue to be included in the entry fee for all Monday, Tuesday, and Friday games. Pot luck lunches on Thursdays will have the club providing the entree. Sunday games that begin at 1:00 will not include lunch



but the 3rd Sunday remains a potluck meal day with free water bottles or soda. Effective with the first New Year game on January 3, the entry fee will be \$9 for all games at the Stockton Bridge Center. There will be no surcharges for special games such as STaC, Senior, NAP, Instant Matchpoint, or Charity games. The 2020 calendar of special games (extra points!) is already posted on our website.

Norma Feters reached Life Master during STaC week in December. She won partial points in each game and completed her 50 Silver points right on the dot in the Thursday game with her usual partner, Cissy Hilken. Congratulations to Norma and also Happy 20th Birthday coming up on February 29. Not to be overlooked, Helen Wood achieved NABC Master just before going to the San Francisco NABC amid traffic and parking problems for only one day to help fill out a Swiss Team and win a little more. Kathryn Odell reached Sectional Master in November; she is not a member of this unit but plays all her games here at Oak Park and the limited (99er and 499er) games at Stockton Bridge Center.

Some Newcomers were glad they attended their first NABC this year. Each of the foursome of Mikki Kindelberger, Carole Seed, Fran Tabak, and Mary Westin won at least one first place and took home prizes, trophies, and commemorative photos. Most of the dozen or so other Unit 510 players also brought home points, and Bill and Ann Nutting increased their Platinum point holding nine-fold by placing high in two of the NABC Championship events. One of the mini highlights of my NABC experience, besides the scrumptious cream puffs, was the buzz about Bill Gates sightings as he sat right behind Debbie Greenberg during a knockout session. She had no idea, but later waited by the door so she could say hello and they

wished each other good luck.

There was one really big game this month when Bill and Ann Nutting won the December 15 STaC game with 81%. This resulted in first place at the Western Conference level. They also had a 78% game December 11 at Oak Park.

The Holiday Potluck Lunch at the Oak Park Club on December 11 was wonderful. Director Korey provided BBQ chicken and players provided the remaining feast of appetizers, salads, entrees, and of course lots of desserts. Thank you, Korey, for a fun year of bridge at the Senior Center and all the work you do toting supplies and setting up each week. Hard to believe it was only a year ago that we were still using traveling score sheets. Thanks also to Paula Monroe, Jill Craig, and their backup, Toni Hillman, who cleans the kitchen at the end of play, and handles the coffee money.

Here's to a great 2020 for Unit 510. It is up to all of us to make that happen. Keep up the good work in being nice to your partner, opponents, and especially welcoming to newcomers.

**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

Diamond in the Ruff is published monthly by District 21 of the American Contract Bridge League. It is free and posted online at the District 21 web site (www.d21acbl.com). ©2020 by ACBL District 21. Contents of this magazine may be reproduced in full with proper citation. Mention of any product or service does not constitute endorsement by *Diamond in the Ruff*. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited materials, and reserves the right to reject any editorial or advertising materials.

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