

# DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 2, Number 12 April 2020

## Leaves From the Executive Branch

*By Ray Yuenger, President*

### The Coronavirus Rears its Ugly Peplomers

When I was elected President of District 21 (“D21”) on January 11 of this year, I expected that I’d be participating in discussions about strategies to reverse the trend of declining attendance at regionals, probably which events to hold when. I didn’t foresee having discussions about whether to cancel the Sacramento Regional scheduled to begin 70 days after I write this. I didn’t foresee the American Contract Bridge League canceling the spring NABC in Columbus Ohio on March 12, just six days before the scheduled beginning. I didn’t foresee that on Monday afternoon, March 16, ACBL Management would “encourage that all club games as well as all tournaments currently scheduled through May 11, 2020 be cancelled or postponed.” I didn’t foresee having to look up that the spiky projections on the coronavirus protein shell are called “peplomers.”

I was shocked to learn on the BridgeWinners.com website on March



*Continued on Page 3*

## I Got Coronavirus Playing Bridge

*By Doug Couchman*

*(Editor’s note: Doug’s story was first published on the Bridge Winners website on March 17. He has graciously consented to republishing it here. A number of readers will remember Doug as a local bridge player and a member of District 21’s Board of Directors until his recent relocation to Tucson. The following article includes his original article and three updates.)*



Because this is long I’ll lead with the main point, then get to the details:

I contracted COVID-19, almost certainly at a bridge tournament: the Tucson regional, March 2-8.

When I came down with symptoms I self-isolated at a hotel, but this was several days after the tournament, and after I’d played multiple club games. Five days after that, a test for coronavirus confirmed that that’s what I have.

As of March 17, I seemed to be mostly recovered, though I am still in informal isolation.

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# Upcoming Tournaments

## Sectionals

~~Apr 3-5, 2020~~

~~Silicon Valley #507 Spring Sectional~~

~~Apr 4-5, 2020~~

~~Almond Valley Sectional~~

Apr 11-12, 2020

Grand National Teams Flight A District Final

Played on BridgeBase Online

~~Apr 18-19, 2020~~

~~Marin Spring Sectional Unit 508~~

~~Apr 25-26, 2020~~

~~Diablo Valley Spring Sectional~~

May 1-3, 2020

Sacramento Unit 505 Spring Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

May 4-10, 2020

Western Conference Spring Fling STaC

Local clubs

May 9-10, 2020

Grand National Teams Flight A District Final

Played on BridgeBase Online

May 9-10, 2020

Grand National Teams Flight C District Final

Played on BridgeBase Online

~~May 16-17, 2020~~

~~Monterey Lone Cypress Sectional~~

~~May 16-17, 2020~~

~~Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional~~

May 19, 2020

Margaret Maggie Mahaffey Sectional

Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Jun 13-14, 2020

San Francisco Sectional

Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jun 27-28, 2020

East Bay Summer Sectional

Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Jul 8-12, 2020

Palo Alto Bridge Club Super Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Aug 8-9, 2020

Castro Valley Sectional

Transfiguration Catholic Church, Castro Valley CA

Aug 8-9, 2020

Fresno Non-Life Master Sectional

Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Aug 11-14, 2020

Reno August 2020 Sectional

Mathewson Bridge Center, Reno NV

Aug 15-16, 2020

San Mateo County Summer Sectional

Cañada College Grove, Redwood City CA

Aug 17-23, 2020

Western Conference Summer Fun STaC

Local clubs

Aug 22-23, 2020

Wine Valley Sectional

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Sep 11-13, 2020

Sacramento Unit 505 Fall Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

Sep 12-13, 2020

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Sep 17-20, 2020

2020 Unit 465 Sectional

Plaza Conference Center, Carson City NV

Sep 19-20, 2020

Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mtn. View CA

Sep 25-27, 2020

Sacramento NLM Fall Sectional

Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Sep 26-27, 2020

Earthquake Sectional

Gilroy Senior Center, Gilroy CA

## Regionals

May 25-31, 2020

California Capital Regional

DoubleTree, Sacramento CA

Sep 1-7, 2020

All Western Championships Regional

Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara CA

Oct 5-11, 2020

Reno Regional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

17 that a former D21 Board member and occasional partner, Doug Couchman, had contracted the coronavirus, presumably while playing at a regional in Tucson, Arizona. Doug has kindly consented to our republishing his article, and you'll see it on the first page next to mine.

## **Tournament cancellations and club closures**

By sheer coincidence, I played in one of the last sectionals to be held in District 21 in Santa Rosa on its final day, March 8. There were bottles of hand sanitizers out. I know some players who stayed away due to health concerns. I wasn't wise enough, I suppose. You can read a report about the tournament in the Unit 509 column elsewhere in this newsletter, ably written by Cecilia Zachar.

After that date, public health guidelines limiting and prohibiting mass gatherings began to be issued. On March 16, the health officers of a half-dozen counties in the Bay Area jointly issued orders requiring citizens to shelter at our residences if not engaged in essential activities or essential businesses, and to maintain a "social distance" of at least six feet while outside our residences. Other counties in District 21 later issued similar orders. On March 19, California's Governor issued a statewide order to stay at our residences unless we are needed to maintain continuity of operations of federal critical infrastructure sectors. Most county orders are set to expire on April 7, but the Governor's order has no specified end date.

The result of these orders and the ACBL encouragement has been that unit boards have been canceling imminent sectionals. On March 13, wearing my Executive Editor's hat, I sent out a mass email noting the cancellation of sectionals scheduled to occur either before this newsletter edition is distributed or shortly thereafter. I also advised readers to check the unit websites before fulfilling plans to play in their sectionals. In this edition of the newsletter, I've asked the publisher to note the list of canceled sectionals on the tournament page. Meanwhile, our D21 Webmaster, Grant Robinson, has been listing and lining out upcoming sectionals on our [website](#) as he gets word of their cancellations.

My email of March 13 also noted the closure of some local clubs, the only ones I'd heard about, to support my advice to readers "that before driving off to a nearby bridge event, you check to make sure it hasn't been canceled." One recipient of that message made a good suggestion that D21 attempt to collate in one list all the club closures in the district. Unfortunately, as Grant and I responded, D21 doesn't have any kind of club coordinator or liaison, and each of the 21 units in the district may contain multiple bridge clubs. I pointed out that Unit 503 in Mountain View has a half-dozen clubs listed on its website, and Unit 506 in San Francisco has another half-dozen. As D21 has no information pipeline to all or any of the clubs in the area, I can only hope that the clubs made the same major efforts to contact their players about closures that my local clubs did with website notices and mass email blasts.

I also hope that club players will consider that their clubs may be obligated to pay the rent even when they are collecting no table fees from the players. It has been very heart-warming to see the generosity of some local players. Linda Nemmer (who will probably be embarrassed that I'm naming her) immediately reacted to news of the closure of the San Jose Bridge Center with an offer to make a contribution and a question about how to organize like-minded players. I suggested a Go Fund Me campaign. After researching how to create one, Linda launched the campaign nine hours before I started writing this article. The campaign was quickly publicized on the Unit 507 website and by a mass Pianola email to Bridge Center players. Within the first day, contributions have already reached almost one month's rent for the Bridge Center. If you care about your home bridge club, I encourage you to start a similar campaign to replace the lost revenue forced on the club by public health orders.

### **The move to online bridge**

A number of my bridge-playing partners and friends have long enjoyed the outlet of playing bridge online, usually on the Bridge Base Online ("BBO") [website](#). That site has offered ACBL tournaments requiring payment of entry fees as well as a variety of free tournaments. Incidentally, a "tournament" on BBO may just be a single-session invitation-only 12-board game with six tables, not necessarily a multi-section, multi-session, multi-day event.

More of the readers are probably in my situation. I created a free BBO account

about eight years ago, but have only used it either to kibitz some online major events or to practice bidding with a partner. Until eight days ago, I'd never played in a BBO tournament. The online environment can be disorienting to a newcomer, but it can also be mastered. I've written up some of the stumbling blocks I encountered in a comment on the Bridge Winners site. Here's a [link](#) if you'd like to read it.

What I'd like to talk about here is the massive and impressively rapid response by a partnership among the ACBL, BBO and the Common Game. On Sunday, March 15, this partnership conducted a trial of a new kind of game on BBO. On Monday, BBO upgraded its servers and has continued to do so.

On Thursday, March 19, the partnership pioneered its first "Support Your Club" game. A second daily game was added the following day and a third daily game has also been added. The ACBL has devoted an entire [webpage](#) to these new events, so I'll provide you with the link to study and just mention some highlights.

For the first time (I believe), players can now earn black points instead of colorless points for doing well in an online ACBL tournament. The entry fee per game is \$5, but of that amount, \$4 will be distributed to the player's home club or clubs. How does BBO determine the player's home club? Well, through ACBL Live for Clubs, the ACBL has collected data revealing who has been playing in which clubs. If a player has played in more than one club, the \$4 fee will be split proportionally according to the frequency of attendance.

You may ask, how about players without recorded home clubs? Can a player designate a home club? Please read the webpage linked above for more details. Some details of this brand-new program are still being worked out.

There have been growing pains with the BBO servers being overwhelmed as players all try to register for the same game at the same time. But this partnership should be commended for trying to keep up while the capacity usage has tripled as a result of our growing national quarantine and increasing tournament cancellations and club closures.

The partnership has arranged for local clubs to relocate online. One of the options on the Tournaments page of BBO is now "ACBL Virtual Clubs." I assume your unit or club manager will notify you if they have opened shop online. The director/host is able to set table fees to an amount that presumably will help the director survive and also pay the rent on the club that has been temporarily closed. Depending on the director's choices, you'll probably be playing against many familiar opponents from your local club.

I hear that a number of directors in D21 have already set up online versions of local club games, including Ken Gamble from the Santa Cruz Bridge Club, Rick Wilson and Paul Dubois from the Livermore Bridge Club, Will Watson from the entire peninsula, and Lynn Yokel from the San Jose Bridge Center. These directors were wise to get their feet in the door. BBO has had such an influx of applications to direct online that it has temporarily stopped accepting them.

Forgive me for talking about my good friend Lynn, but I hope this information will inspire some other club directors to go online. Lynn's first online game as director/host was on Saturday, March 14. She has been learning by doing as have many of us San Jose Bridge Club regulars by playing in her games. The games have usually been 12 boards, taking about 90 minutes, although she has conducted some 18-board games.

When the local club was open, Lynn ran two day games and two evening games a week. Within a week online, she has ramped up to offering two daily games at noon and 7 p.m. and also added special games for beginners, and some "speedball" games for BBO habitués. And every game has been free. I like to think that the generosity of local players in contributing to the Go Fund Me campaign I mentioned above is partly in response to the goodwill Lynn is generating by devoting so much of her time to give us quarantined players a bridge outlet. She has confided in me that some aspects of the hosting software are frustrating. For instance, she gets no audible signal when there is a director call, so she must be constantly vigilant for the online notification.

If you are feeling stuck at home and missing your bridge fix, I recommend you give online bridge a try. It may be daunting at first, but you'll get used to it, just like you got used to bidding boxes, alerts, and entering scores in BridgeMates. And there are some built-in benefits to online bridge. You cannot bid or play out of turn, and those facial expressions and gestures by which some opponents may subconsciously

communicate do not exist. You never have to spend any time entering the score when a hand is over, and a clock reminding you of the time left in a round is constantly in front of you, if you need to get up for a quick break.

### **Other online entertainment**

Playing bridge online may not be your cup of tea, even if you give it a fair try. There are other online avenues to keep your toes in the bridge water. The [BridgeWinners.com](http://BridgeWinners.com) website has a constantly refreshing series of discussions about a wide variety of bridge-related topics. Among today's hot topics are the future of bridge in general, the survival of the ACBL, and the survival of bridge clubs. Site membership is free. You just need a verifiable email address. Despite the site's title, any bridge idiot can post a comment offering an opinion. If you visit the site, you'll see me proving my own last point.

Another source of bridge reading is a [blog](#) by a D21 member and experienced player, Jennifer Jones. Just recently she posted some bridge tips for when you are stuck at home. Click on the link provided to visit her blog.

And of course, if you find yourself with time on your hands, you can peruse the back issues of this newsletter [here](#) on the D21 website.

### **Loose ends**

In last month's column, I mentioned the imminent decision to choose a mass email provider. After last month's newsletter was sent out on March 1, Marketing Solutions finally imposed its email credit scheme.

Stu Goodgold was the first to run into it. On March 5, Stu tried to send out a district-wide notice of the cancellation of the Non-Life Master regional scheduled for March 14-15 because of the closure of its venue, the Palo Alto Bridge Center. When he signed on to the site, he was told that D21 had no email credits. I went ahead and purchased some credits for the district. I won't repeat the pricing scheme I described last month. After about a day of technical difficulties in getting Marketing Solutions to reflect our credits, Stu was able to send out the cancellation notice blast.

I could go on, as you might have noticed, but I'll call this a wrap. I hope you are heeding the public health officials and coping with your newly restricted lifestyle. You may feel alone isolated at home, but we are all in the same boat.

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## ***Couchman***

*From Page 1*

On to the details: This was my first Tucson Regional, as I moved here just a few months ago. Shameless plug: Assuming bridge gets back on its feet some day, I strongly recommend y'all come next year. We have a decent playing site, good competition, and great volunteers.

My week was just about nothing but the tournament: Setup on Sunday beforehand, Monday afternoon and evening sessions, then Tuesday through Sunday morning and afternoon sessions. (That's the schedule; had there been more sessions I'd have played.) A couple of those days we went to the bar next door afterward, but that was it; then I'd head home.

The highlight for me, by far, came on Saturday when my partner George Kersels got the last few gold points he needed for Life Master. He'd been at it for years and started to despair of ever getting there, and I don't know when I've seen someone so happy. These are the moments that make bridge special. (Thank you, Brad and John, for your support at the other table; we needed that...)

Other than that wonderful moment it was pretty much as one would expect of a regional: Some success and some disappointments; some pair and some team games; lots of hanging out with old friends and new ones.

That, and the virus. Coronavirus had been in the news but at that time the general feeling was that we were still reasonably safe. Still, tournament organizers had taken what we felt were reasonable precautions. Prominent signs advised frequent hand washing and eschewing of handshaking, and there was hand sanitizer placed around the room. And of course we asked people not to play if they believed themselves to be sick.

But we now know that the virus was there. The week before, a woman who has since died of COVID-19 had played in Colorado Springs; she wasn't in Tucson but several of her fellow players were. I played several times against players from Colorado Springs. But it would be wrong to assume that because that was one possible source, it was the only one. We had players in from all over: at least a dozen states and a couple of Canadian provinces were represented. (That's not an official word, it's just the ones I remember playing

against.) In addition to the obvious District 17 attendees, there were contingents from California, Texas, Nebraska, Idaho, Michigan, Washington, British Columbia, and sundry other places.

How many people did I personally interact with, one might wonder? I don't know what kinds of interactions are relevant to virus transmission but conservatively I played against at least forty other pairs, and had conversations with perhaps a hundred people.

I didn't play on Monday after the tournament but on Tuesday, March 10 I played at Adobe Bridge Club, and on Wednesday I played two sessions there, one a mentor game and one an open. I felt fine — I wouldn't have been there had I been sick.

On Wednesday (March 11), after the game I conducted an online tutoring session with an MCAT student (this is my "real world" job), during which I started to develop a cough. After that session I had another online session, this one a bidding practice session with my partner-to-be for Columbus. During that second session I started feeling really lousy, as my coughing got worse and I also started feeling like I had a fever, with chills and aches, as well as some intestinal distress. I cut that session off at 8pm notwithstanding that we'd planned to go longer; I was just too out of it to continue. I had gone from feeling 100% fine to obviously ill in about four hours.

I wasn't convinced that I had coronavirus but I knew it was possible. I also knew that a member of my family who is very vulnerable to the disease (late

70s and immunocompromised) was due to arrive home (we live together) in just a couple more hours, so I packed up my things and headed to a motel. I've been isolated ever since.

The next couple days, my health status was a bit of a roller-coaster. Wednesday night was pretty miserable — the coughing subsided but the achiness and apparent fever (I didn't take my temperature) kept me up most of the night. (Well, in fact the mariachi music next door helped with that....) In the morning I improved a lot, but Thursday afternoon the aches were back and Thursday night was also bad. Friday was even stranger: When I woke up I felt perfectly fine, and all morning I was expecting it was over. But about 1pm the aches hit again, even worse this time, along with fatigue and lightheadedness. I knew no way to obtain a test for SARS-CoV-2 (the formal name for the novel coronavirus), but I was able to get a test for influenza at an urgent care clinic. Negative. Darn. Had you told me a couple weeks before that I'd be disappointed not to have the flu, I wouldn't have believed it possible

By mid-afternoon I was hurting all over. I spoke with my brother, a physician, and he decided that I needed to be tested, notwithstanding that I didn't officially qualify for it. (Arizona was testing only people who had symptoms and had been in contact with known carriers, which was basically no one because the state had only nine official cases at that time.) I drove myself to his office so he could test me (in the parking lot), which wasn't easy because by that time I was feeling quite disoriented, but I made it and he swabbed

me; that was about 5pm Friday afternoon. He said results would not be available for three or four days, assuming everything went well at the lab.

My next act was to inform the local bridge community. From the same parking lot, I called and spoke with the president of Adobe Bridge Club and also with board members at the other major club in the area, the Northwest Tucson Bridge Club. I hadn't been to the latter club since before the tournament (I'd taught a class there the weekend prior to it) but I reasoned that if it turned out I'd been exposed to the virus, then that would suggest that many others had too. Each of those clubs had considered closing but hadn't done so yet. I still didn't know what was right for them to do but I wanted everyone to have as much information as possible, so notwithstanding how weird it felt to discuss my private health information with, in effect, the entire local bridge community, and despite there being no firm proof at that point that I had the virus, I felt I needed to give people as much information as possible.

That evening, each club decided to close. They emailed their memberships about it, saying that an unnamed player had been tested. They didn't name me but I knew the community would soon know (after all, at least twenty people had to be told just to get the two clubs' boards to agree), so when someone else posted a thread about, in effect, me on Bridge Winners, I decided to go fully public.

Since then my progress has been steady and I believe I've been symptom-free since late Saturday. (It's not trivial to tell because it's also been a high pollen week here.) So

all's well, maybe; but, March 16 we got the test results. Positive for SARS-CoV-2. In English: Yes, I have COVID-19, the novel coronavirus disease.

Eugene, one of the Bridge Winners administrators, had asked me to write this article up, if I were willing, when my test results came in. Though it continues to feel strange and I don't want anyone to think I want to be the center of attention, I thought it important that we, the bridge world, understand that bridge events are avenues for transmission of the virus. Theoretically we knew this already, but this is proof.

What's next for me? Several days more isolation, or maybe more; the health department hasn't gotten back to us. (I expected to be interviewed but that hasn't happened; I imagine they're overwhelmed.) But for me, the health crisis seems to be over. COVID-19 is a deadly disease but my experience with it has been the more typical one: It's really miserable but then one recovers. If only that were true for everyone.

What's next for the bridge world? I wish I knew. A week of isolation has been bad enough; I don't know what I'll do with limited social interaction if this goes on for months. And as with many others, bridge is a huge component of my social life. Yes, online bridge is out there but it isn't really a substitute for the social aspect of the game; we're going to have to work on that. But for now, this is our world. Be safe.

*(Ed. note: Doug posted the following update on March 18).*

Today's update: In terms of illness, things seem to be fine for me. I'm symptom

free and looking at a few days more of isolation.

Last night, reporters started calling me. In at least one case he'd gotten my name from an announcement made by my local bridge club. The aspect of the story they find most interesting is the official state tally, which holds that there are only a handful of cases in the entire county (population about one million), a total that does not include me, and that the risk of community transmission here is "minimal." That's not true, and we (and they) all know it. I suspect there will be stories written about this soon.

One of the reporters got me in touch with the director of epidemiology for the county. She told me that they hadn't contacted me because they didn't know how to, which is interesting because my doctor had given them my contact information. Oh well. She interviewed me and now the county knows what's been happening, including about the tournament; we'll see what if anything happens to the information.

Thank you, everyone, for the support and good wishes, and for understanding that I came out with this story because I thought the community needed to know about it.

*(Ed. note: Doug posted the following update on March 19).*

Another pair of updates:

First, the macroscopic look. The county, and therefore the state, finally lists me among its cases, probably because yesterday I talked to them. (I called them; they said they didn't have my number but that wasn't true.) They still list the

likelihood of community transmission in the state as “minimal,” which I guess is sufficiently subjective that it’s hard to disprove, but it bothers me. I hear from my friends here that some others are finally able to get tested, so we’ll soon see just how badly the local bridge community has been hit so far. But the bridge clubs are closed and I believe most people here are distancing.

Anent the discussion about me donating my antibodies for research: A few minutes ago I gave samples to a U of A researcher who is sequencing different strains of the virus to track its evolution and spread. Apparently the virus mutates so fast that it’s already possible to identify more than a hundred variants around the world.

The microscopic picture is, unfortunately, worse. Yesterday I relapsed. I again experienced fever and aches; unfortunately this time it came with some difficulty breathing. Nothing serious enough to warrant a trip to the ER, but I’ve been forced to accept that that may happen so I’ve planned my route, entered the appropriate numbers into my phone, and so forth. I believe, based on how I feel right now, that this is an extremely low probability event, but I also now admit that I can’t actually know that.

As I said above, I’m early 50s and have no other notable risk factors. Anyone who feels somehow immune: You’re not.

*(Ed. note: Doug posted the following update on March 20.)*

Update, which I think may be the last of the regular ones (for a happy reason): I continue to improve, and while I decline to be Charlie Brown with the coronavirus football I am cautiously optimistic that I am now on the final upward part of the recovery curve. My lungs are still affected and I sound like an adolescent bullfrog, but my breathing is acceptable (just a tiny bit labored) and I feel otherwise pretty good.

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## District 21 2020 GNTs

*By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator*

I am proud to announce that we are doing our best in the GNTs to cope with the current pandemic gripping the bridge world. Play will go on in the GNT Flight A and Flight C events, online, using BBO. The schedule of events, the online registration page on the D21 website, and the registration deadlines will all remain the same. The main difference is that the Bridge Winners registration page is now the ONLY place to register, AND you must buy your entry on that webpage, in order to register for these events. Bridge Winners has set up our registration page to mimic the way we currently purchase our National Event entries through their portal, so you should be familiar with that process.



## District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager

Hi everyone, I hope this article finds you safely and comfortably holed up at home with full pantries and such!



Probably what most of you want at this point is to know what's happening with our future tournaments. Like everyone else in this unprecedented situation, we are having to play it by ear one day at a time.

While it is quite possible that the upcoming California Capital Regional in Sacramento may have to be cancelled, at this point we are planning to proceed. If it becomes necessary to cancel, we will put

up the information on the District website, (<http://www.d21acbl.com>), with plenty of time for you to cancel reservations and travel plans. We will also try to notify you via a district-wide email blast, so watch for that as it may look unusual in your inbox.

Be sure you make your reservations for the Santa Clara All Western and the Reno/Sparks Regionals, by which time things should have settled down. Reservation information and booking links are on the district website (see above), and if you have any questions or concerns, email me ([jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com)).

I know we are all hoping that this pandemic is handled as swiftly as possible so that we can get back to life as usual - at the bridge table!

Please take care of yourselves!

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

# California Capital Regional

May 25 - 31, 2020

at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento

## Monday May 25

- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 1st of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**AMERICAN RIVER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**AUBURN BRACKETED KOs**  
Continues Tuesday 1 & 7
- 7:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Tuesday May 26

- 9:00 River Cats Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**TUESDAY DAYLIGHT GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 3rd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**EL DORADO BRACKETED KOs**  
rounds 1&2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7  
**AUBURN KOs – rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 4th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Wednesday May 27

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 5th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
Continues Thursday 1 & 7  
**EL DORADO KOs – rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 6th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Thursday May 28 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS – 2nd of 2**  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **JACKIE MATTHEWS DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 1st of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**KINGS BRACKETED KOs** rounds 1 & 2,  
Continues Friday 1 & 7  
**SIERRA KOs – rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Friday May 29

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 3rd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750**  
**OPEN BRACKETED TEAMS**  
**KINGS KOs – rounds 3 & 4**
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 4th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

## Saturday May 30 0-5 mp's play free today!

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS – 2nd of 2**  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5  
City of Trees 299er Pairs  
Sacramento River 99er Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**GOLD RUSH SWISS 0-200/400/750**
- 1:00 City of Trees 299er Pairs  
Sacramento River 99er Pairs  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 5th of 6
- 1 & 7 **CALIFORNIA CAPITAL OPEN SWISS TEAMS**  
Two qualifying sessions Saturday  
Two final sessions Sunday  
**STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**OPEN BRACKETED TEAMS**
- 7:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 6th of 6  
City of Trees 299er Pairs  
Sacramento River 99er Pairs

## Sunday May 31

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

- CALIFORNIA SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP** finals  
**STRATIFIED A/X/Y SWISS TEAMS**  
Strat A 6000+ Strat X 4000-6000 Strat Y 0-4000  
**0-3000 mp Bracketed Teams**  
•No individual player over 3000 mp  
•Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall places per bracket.  
•Teams may not withdraw after one session.  
**SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)**  
**STRATIFIED OPEN FAST PAIRS, 1st and 2nd**  
**10am and TBA**

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

**Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.**

**A 2500+ B 1000 – 2500 C 0 - 1000**  
Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.  
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

# California Capital Regional

May 25 - 31, 2020



## \*Tournament Highlights\*

- California Capital Open Swiss  
Two qualifying sessions Saturday  
Two final sessions Sunday
- Four Knockout Events
- Five Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs  
Tuesday Daylight Gold Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Mid Flight Pairs Wed - Friday
- Daylight Pairs  
Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3
- 10 & 3 Gold Rush Swiss Teams Sat.
- Bracketed Teams Friday, Sat, Sunday  
\*Gold Points in every bracket!
- Celebrity Speaker Program  
6:15 - 6:45 Tuesday - Saturday

**ENTRIES \$12**  
Unpaid ACBL Members \$16

District 21 website is your first resource  
For our Regionals:  
Make hotel reservations  
Plan your tournament events  
Gather general information/directions  
[www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

Matt Koltnow - Director in Charge

ACBL Sanction R2005113

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

Reserve **EARLY** for the  
**BRIDGE RATE**  
**\$112 single/double plus tax**  
**\$149 for Cal Expo Wing**

\*\*\*limited number of rooms available\*\*\*

**916-929-8855**  
**800-222-TREE**

## Intermediate/Newcomer Events

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

**Bridge Concepts Lectures**  
**with Scott Campbell**  
**Tues-Sat at Noon**

**Saturday is I/N Appreciation Day!**  
*Play one session for \$10, or two for \$15*  
*0-5 MP's play free on Saturday*

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com)

Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.  
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# 86<sup>th</sup> All Western Championships

## September 1-7, 2020

at the HYATT REGENCY, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054

### Tuesday, September 1

- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 1st of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**HOE DOWN GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750**  
**KIT CARSON BRACKETED KOs**  
continues Wednesday 1 & 7
- 7pm Pony Express Side Pairs 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Wednesday, September 2

- 9am Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 3rd of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**GOLDEN SPIKE PAIRS 200/400/750**  
**WYATT EARP BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Thursday 1 & 7  
KIT CARSON KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Pony Express Side Pairs 4th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Thursday, September 3

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS** – 1st of 2  
continues Friday at 9am  
Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**CHEROKEE GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750**
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 5th of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Friday 1 & 7  
WYATT EARP KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Pony Express Side Pairs 6th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Friday, September 4

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS**– round 2  
Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 1st of 6  
99er/299er Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**  
**STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000**  
**SASPARILLA GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750**  
**APACHE BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Saturday 1 & 7  
SIERRA KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 2nd of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Saturday, September 5 0-5 mp's play free today!

- 9am **DOC HOLLIDAY SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
continues Sunday at 9am  
Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**ANNIE OAKLEY GOLD RUSH PAIRS 200/400/750**
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 3rd of 6  
Wild West 99er Pairs  
Branding Iron 299er Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**  
2 qualifying sessions Saturday  
2 final sessions Sunday  
**O.K. CORRAL BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Sunday at 1 & 7  
APACHE KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 4th of 6  
Wild West 99er Pairs  
Branding Iron 299er Pairs

### Sunday, September 6

- 9am **DOC HOLLIDAY SWISS TEAMS**– round 2  
Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5  
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SUNDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm **LAST CHANCE COMPACT KOs 1 & 2**  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 5th of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS** - finals  
O.K. CORRAL KOs 3 & 4  
**OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**WILD BILL GOLD RUSH PAIRS 200/400/750**
- 7pm **LAST CHANCE COMPACT KOs 3 & 4**  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Stagecoach Side Pairs 6th of 6  
299er Stratified Pairs

### Monday, September 7

- \*\*\*EARLY START - All games at 10am\*\*\***  
**STRAT A/X/Y TEAMS 0-3000/3000-5000/5000+**  
**0-2500 mp ROUND ROBIN TEAMS**
- 10am •No individual player over 2500 mp  
& •Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall  
TBA places per bracket.  
•Teams may not withdraw after one session.
- SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)**  
**FAST STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
10am and TBA with a short break  
299er Stratified Pairs 10am only

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

**Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.**

**A 2500+ B 1000 – 2500 C 0 - 1000**  
Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.  
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

DISTRICT 21 ACBL PRESENTS

86<sup>th</sup>

# ALL WESTERN



# CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 1-7, 2020

## \*Tournament Highlights\*

All Western Open Pairs Championship

Saturday and Sunday

- New Knockouts Daily
- Six Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs
- Mid flight Pairs Wed-Friday
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Daylight Pairs  
Wednesday - Sunday at 10 & 3
- Celebrity Speakers  
6:15-6:45 Wednesday-Sunday

**ENTRIES \$12**

Unpaid ACBL members \$16

**District 21 website is your first resource  
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- Make hotel reservations
- Plan your tournament events
- Gather general information/direction  
[www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com)  
Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.  
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## HYATT REGENCY

5101 Great America Parkway  
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Reserve EARLY for the  
**BRIDGE RATE**

Mon-Wed \$214

Thurs-2nd Mon \$139

408-200-1234

800-233-1234

**LIMITED PARKING!  
REMEMBER TO CARPOOL**

## Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs Daily at 9, 1 & 7

Bridge Concepts Lectures  
with Scott Campbell

Wednesday thru Sunday at Noon

**Saturday is I/N Appreciation Day!**

Play one session for \$10, 2 for \$15, 3 for \$20

0-5MP's play free on Saturday

McKenzie Myers - Director in Charge ACBL Sanction R2009108

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# RANK ADVANCES

## JUNIOR MASTERS (5 MASTERPOINTS)

Manisha Agrawal, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Kathryn Dublin, El Macero CA, 505  
Susan Durringer, Reno NV, 473  
Cree Edwards, Woodside CA, 498  
John Elliott, San Jose CA, 507  
Eric Faust, Redwood City CA, 498  
Nancy Field, San Francisco CA, 506  
Jeff Finer, Foster City CA, 498  
Druhin Goel, San Francisco CA, 506  
Laurie Harrington, Clovis CA, 522  
Susan Heidenreich, Burlingame CA, 498  
Gary Ho, Los Altos CA, 503  
Lee Kemper, Sacramento CA, 505  
William Law, San Jose CA, 507  
Yvonne Lenbergs, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Sarah Malarkey, San Francisco CA, 506  
Diana Mann, San Carlos CA, 498  
Jeremy Meza, Berkeley CA, 497  
Barbara Mickle, Carson City NV, 465  
Andrew Morton, San Jose CA, 507  
Umesh Padval, Menlo Park CA, 498  
Carol Schmiedt, Los Gatos CA, 507  
Sara Stanley, Roseville CA, 505  
Louise Stermer, Fresno CA, 522  
Rick Wasson, Reno NV, 473  
Robert Yarrigle, Roseville CA, 505  
Liane Yuen Young, San Jose CA, 507  
Nick Zhu, San Jose CA, 507

## CLUB MASTERS (20 MASTERPOINTS)

Ari Azhir, Los Altos CA, 503  
Robin Baker, Richmond CA, 497  
Emily Beaty, Lafayette CA, 499  
Sandra Bonnet, San Jose CA, 507  
Lisa G Bruml, San Mateo CA, 498  
Leslie Dahm, Reno NV, 473  
Benjamin Darnell, San Jose CA, 507  
Sarah Eidelhoch, San Francisco CA, 506  
Alan Engelberg, Los Altos CA, 503  
Dirk Epperson, Berkeley CA, 497  
Rosalind Fisher, Carmel CA, 530  
Renee Flint, Watsonville CA, 550  
Ronald Forney, Lafayette CA, 499  
Leslie Golden, Lafayette CA, 499  
Rolando Grijalva, Reno NV, 473  
Nancy Hoeck, Burlingame CA, 498  
Arlene Holt, Sonoma CA, 512  
Helga Justman, San Francisco CA, 506  
Mikki Kindelberger, Stockton CA, 510  
Susanne Lauridsen, Hillsborough CA, 498  
Susie Martinez, Reno NV, 473  
Larry Meyer, Sacramento CA, 505  
Janet Middleton, Benicia CA, 512  
David Nakamura, Frimont CA, 500  
Richard Pearce, Santa Cruz CA, 550  
Howard Rosenberg, Los Altos Hls CA, 503  
Carole Seed, Stockton CA, 510  
Judy Seropan, San Francisco CA, 506  
Lee Sherwood, San Francisco CA, 506  
Donna Sjolund, Sonoma CA, 512

Michele Stephens, Calistoga CA, 509  
Kristine Therian, San Francisco CA, 506  
Michael Topper, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Emily Van Vleet, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Betsy Wagner, San Jose CA, 507  
Mary Westin, Lodi CA, 510  
Nicklos White, Sacramento CA, 505  
Walter Zavoli, Palo Alto CA, 503

## **SECTIONAL MASTERS** **(50 MASTERPOINTS)**

Robert Cabrera, Oakland CA, 502  
Alan Calkin, Sacramento CA, 505  
Patricia Freitas, Gilroy CA, 524  
Madelaine Georgette, Oakland CA, 502  
Rakesh Gupta, Saratoga CA, 507  
Edward Hampton, Auberry CA, 522  
Agnes Kennedy, Sacramento CA, 505  
Madeleine Lowhurst, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Ralph Lyle, Morgan Hill CA, 524  
Thomas Pelliccioni, San Francisco CA, 506  
Jane Plocher, Woodland CA, 505  
Harriet Schloemer, Carmichael CA, 505  
Suzanne Sobenes, Fresno CA, 522  
Yannie Zhao, Saratoga CA, 507

## **REGIONAL MASTERS** **(100 MASTERPOINTS)**

Jerry Carroll, Oakland CA, 502  
Kim Fusch, Petaluma CA, 509  
Patrick Harl, Livermore CA, 499  
Lance Lissner, Los Altos CA, 503  
Carolyn Lougee, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Joanne Rayden, Los Altos CA, 503  
Helen Trop-Zell, Incline Village NV, 465

## **NABC MASTERS** **(200 MASTERPOINTS)**

Ashwini Datar, Cupertino CA, 507  
Frederick Kelly, Reno NV, 473  
LecClier Kelly, Reno NV, 473  
William Mann, San Carlos CA, 503  
Shrikant Sathe, Saratoga CA, 507  
Chuck Wiesen, Tracy CA, 510

## **ADVANCED** **NABC MASTERS** **(300 MASTERPOINTS)**

Linzhi Hu, San Jose CA, 503  
Furqan Naeem, Pittsburgh CA, 499

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

Lee Dunn, Reno NV, 473  
Andrew Lazarus, Berkeley CA, 497

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

Daniel Claassen, Fremont CA, 503  
Marie-France Ghent, Reno NV, 473  
Qucheng Gong, Newark CA, 500  
Steve Holmes, Fresno CA, 522  
Andrew Lazarus, Berkeley CA, 497  
Alex Martelli, Sunnyvale CA, 503  
Bruce Moon, S Lake Tahoe CA, 465  
David Sisson, Fremont CA, 507  
Kay Wyhlidko, Fair Oaks CA, 505

**SILVER**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(1000 MASTERPOINTS)**

Renee Goff, Fairfax CA, 508  
Eleanor Wales, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Carol Warren, Piedmont CA, 502  
Marcia Wasserman, Piedmont CA, 502

**RUBY**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(1500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Jennifer Kuhn, San Mateo CA, 498  
Christina Nevin, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
William Samuels, Lafayette CA, 499  
Daniel Sonner, Redwood City CA, 498

**GOLD**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(2500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Naren Gupta, Woodside CA, 503  
Dan Turkus, Los Gatos CA, 507

**DIAMOND**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(5000 MASTERPOINTS)**

Michael Fleisher, Campbell CA, 507  
Kate Hill, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Arlene Levy, Menlo Park CA, 503

# HEART OF THE DISTRICT

CLICK ON THE LINK TO GO TO THAT PAGE

<b>Area</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Columnist</b>
<a href="#"><u>Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>497</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mark Kornman</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Diablo Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>499</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lisa Assoni</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>East Bay</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>502</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Larry Bowerman</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Fresno</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>522</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Laura Da Costa</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Livermore</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>501</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rosemarie LaFrancesca</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Marin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>508</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Gail Haar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Monterey</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>530</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mary Block</u></a>
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<a href="#"><u>Sacramento</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>505</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Miriam Steinberg</u></a>
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<a href="#"><u>Santa Rosa/Petaluma</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>509</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cecelia Zachar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Silicon Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>507</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ray Yuenger</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Stockton</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>510</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Debbie DeZarn</u></a>

## Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

*By The Beer Dude*

Baseball season's here – the A's look pretty good & I've made futures bets on them to win the AL & World Series; did the same with Atlanta in the NL. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on sports since I wrote most of this Mar 8-9; now finishing up on Mar 13, as I got word that day that the clubhouse we rent from El Cerrito will be closed at least thru Mar 29. Our 1st scheduled game after is April Fools' Day, & I doubt seriously we'll be allowed to reopen then, given that the local schools won't be reopening until at least the 7th.

Unit games: Wed 2/26 drew 5.5 tables, which Gerda Janos-Marcia Mattoon topped. Behind them: Jan Kosel-John Love 2A/B; Eric-Richard 3A; Sandi-Roseanne 4A; Dexter-Gordon 3B. Fri 3/6 also drew just 5.5, with Shahla-Aki topping the field, Lamar-Richard 2A, & Dexter-Gordon & Eric-Sandi 3/4A. April games are Fri 3rd & Wed 29th (assuming we're open). I'll find another Wed later in the year to replace it – we're allowed 24 sessions/yr.

We gained a net 2 to our unit roster: new members Marion Chabot (who's been an off/on regular for 4-5 yrs) & Janice Torbet, plus transfer-in Michael Engel from East Bay. We lost Doug Hannah to SF – he moved.

At da club: Richard was Feb MP champ; John Love, our setter-upper, took NLM honors, scoring well in both unit games. For truncated March, Shahla-Aki shared the top spot; Jan Kosel was the top NLM. Annette Goldberg & Dolores Mackinnon were among those trapped

on the cruise ship – it'll be awhile before we know more. I'll run the 3/20 Fri club champ game that we were forced to cancel on Fri 17th this month, assuming I can get a “special dispensation” waiver from ACBL, as we're only allowed to 1 CC per game each quarter. Also, “Life Overtakes Me” (John Haptas' documentary) is available on Netflix if you have it (thanx, Joanne Cobeen for that info!). A final note to ye who flunked Spatial Perception 101: When I close up, I put the printer atop the bidding boxes, which are stacked in 4 layers of 16 – long side L-R, short side front-back. So please put them back that way!

Happy Passover/Easter – may your seders have better wine than Manishevitz; try not to OD on ham/chocolate eggs & bunnies. Make potato salad or deviled eggs w/the dyed hard-boiled ones – does anyone even do that ritual any more (I have no clue)? Remember PAAS, the dye tablets you had to mix w/stinky cheap white vinegar? Dipping the eggs was fun, but I had to hold my nose.

Stay safe & sanitary – who knows when this monster will dissipate? Get tested ASAP if you've had known contact w/someone who's tested positive; once we reopen, stay home if you're not medically cleared or are (cough/sneez)ing a lot from other than seasonal allergies. We'll update you on reopening via e-mail (we'll phone the Luddites who have no internet/cell phone to text) & on our website.

Tweak [beerman1949@gmail.com](mailto:beerman1949@gmail.com) to brag/gripe/suggest; unit info & game results available 24/7 @ [www.berunit497.org](http://www.berunit497.org). Game results (no BridgePad matrix) also on ACBL Live for clubs (click the link

on ACBL website). When I'm in town, I post results when I get home from where I go afterward, sometimes very late at night, When I'm traveling, I post after I get them when I'm back at my lodging. There's no wi-fi @ our game site, so I/my relief directors can't post immediately after the game.

## Diablo Valley

*By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook*

What the Heck! This virus has really knocked the cards off the table. I want to continue with helpful happy words, and seasoned this column with a little Joy. Good news is uplifting and can help heal the reader.



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

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

Mark Humphrey is a man that exhibits all of the above fine qualities. He's devoted much of his free time to helping all of us at Unit 499. He's simmered along, keeping his cool, and stirred the pot to help make CCBC a great success. We recently had a grand Pro-Am game, hosted by Mark and Lyn. This twosome made another fine day in the neighborhood. Food was abundant, tables were filled to the brim, and everyone applauded their hard work, care, and concern for all players. Over the years, Mark has made his indelible mark, as he's organized so many wonderful events with Lyn always there to aid and assist; great duo! Thanks so much for being the kind-hearted folks you are.

My partner was Grant Robinson. Hey, I lucked out. Grant, as you all know is the manager of our club. He's made the Contra Costa Bridge Center a great place to learn and play bridge. Hey, we tied for first!

A good friend Tom Henry wrote his quote for this month, "I never lose at bridge. I win or I learn." Isn't that how life's supposed to play out?

Remember during these scary times, you can only do your part to keep yourself and others safe. It appears the only control we have over this situation is ourselves. So-ooo try and project positivity in our thinking and speaking. Each day, take a reflective time to count your blessings. You'll make each day a better One.

Ciao Bella/The ShortCut Cook

## East Bay

By Larry Bowerman ([lmjtbow@pacbell.net](mailto:lmjtbow@pacbell.net))

In these uncertain times, take care of yourselves and be well.

As most of you know by now, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement and/or cancelation of bridge tournaments and games at most local clubs, including at our own East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC). The EBCBC made its decision to close indefinitely late in the evening on March 12. As with many other postponements and/or closures, we have no idea how long they will last. Please check the Unit 502 and EBCBC websites periodically for any updates about the on-going impact of COVID-19.

For those of you who miss playing bridge (and who doesn't?), you can always play online at: BridgeBase Online, OK Bridge, Funbridge and/or Swan Games. You can find links to each of these four websites at the ACBL website. From the ACBL homepage click on the pull-down menu "Clubs" towards the left side of the homepage, then click on "Play Online."

Assuming that the EBCBC closure continues through April, I'm not including my usual discussion of Saturday or Sunday games. If COVID-19 situation resolves itself during April, that information will be available on the Unit 502 and/or EBCBC websites. Stay tuned; I think that we are in for a roller coaster ride!

If the COVID-19 closures are lifted by the end of April, here are a couple of

possible events for your bridge calendars: For those of you in need of Silver Points May 4 to May 10 is STAC Week (\$10 entry fees). And, it's not too soon to mark your calendars for the East Bay Summer Sectional at the Masonic Center on June 27 and 28. This is a great event, and the food is excellent.

In the March 1 unit game, Lynn Yokel and Barak Engel finished in first place (71.02%), Tom McKelvey and John Santibanes finished second (58.74%), Bonnie Macbride and Sidney Mar third (56.99%), Gregory Vance and Andrew Hoskins fourth (56.64%), and Roseanne Smith and Sandi Davis fifth (55.30%). As you can see, Lynne and Barak had an excellent game, and there was good competition for the next four places!

Welcome to new Unit 502 member Sarah Redick. When you see her, please introduce yourself and welcome her to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements: Ronald Hutton to Regional Master; Catherine Fortney to Bronze Life Master; David Pratt to Silver 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 May column, so please contact her ([marciawasserman@gmail.com](mailto:marciawasserman@gmail.com)) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

## Fresno

*By Laura Da Costa*

I hope all of you are well and sheltered during this COVID-19 pandemic. On March 15 I had to make a decision about my game on the 16th. I had many people ready to play as always, but I had many others not comfortable with coming to the clubhouse (or, in many cases, their children insisted they do not come to the clubhouse). Finally, after discussion with the Unit 522 Board of Directors, and after both the State of California and the Fresno County Department of Health declared that people over the age of 65 should stay home and isolate, it was decided that the clubhouse needed to close. So, the last game at the clubhouse was Saturday, March 14. At the time, we said we would close for two weeks, then reevaluate. Given current COVID-19 expectations, the closure might be going much longer than the two weeks.

March did not have many special games planned, but a longer closure will make the April events of our Anniversary Party, and our Poker night very much in jeopardy. Stay tuned to see if these fun events get rescheduled.

Since the March games seem to be finished as of this date, I will report the February 70% games and the two March 70% games. In the Wednesday evening Open game in Madera on 2/5, there were two pairs earning way over 70% in the same game. On that night Barbara Diebert & Richard Meffley earned 81.25% to beat out Carol Kaufman & Steve Johnson's 75% game. Also, in Madera, Richard Meffley & June Serio earned 75% the following month (3/4).

The remaining ones were in Fresno. In the Saturday afternoon Open game on 2/1, Ray April & Howard Arquette earned 71%. On the same day, in the 99er game, June Serio & Clint Hudson earned 71.25%. Richard Meffley had one more 70% game, this time with Gerard Laquerriere when they earned 72.49% in the Monday afternoon Open game on 2/10. Clint Hudson had two more 70% games, one with Edward Hampton when they earned 72.5% in the Tuesday evening 99er game on 2/11, and the other again with June Serio when they earned 76.39% in the Saturday afternoon 99er game on 3/7.

Congratulations to Steve Holmes who reached the rank of Bronze Life Master (500 mps).

Keep healthy and we hope to see you back at the clubhouse soon.

## Livermore Valley

*By Rosemarie LaFrancesca*

Since our club has been closed, people have still managed to play bridge with each other! That's the good news. Our former club owner, Paul DuBoise, has been directing games online for LBC. All you need is an account with Bridge Base and to get on the email list. Dan Bergmann was very helpful and willing to get people on the list. Another of our members, Rick Wilson, has also been directing the games. We are very fortunate to have dedicated folks to help us all get through this social distancing.

The games come with hand records, and many of the players will weigh in

with interesting hand analyses, all through email so that we remain 6 feet apart. You have to eat your own snacks, but it is still a satisfying time at the bridge “table.” Hopefully, we will not have to do this for too many weeks or months.

On a happier note, Pat Leary has become a Grand Life Master! Congratulations to Pat for her many years of outstanding bridge play!

## Marin

*By Gail Haar*

Along with everyone else, my life has been turned upside down by coronavirus so these notes will be short and sweet. Our unit has some Master rank achievements to call out: Terry Kee and Henry Kingdon (Silver Life); Evan Scott (Sectional); Susan Beech, Jeff Hoffman, Ilene Schwerin (Club); and Debra Bellings-Kee, Christina Dallera, Kathleen Powell, Jill Stephens, and Rita Swenson (Junior). Congratulations to you all.



Since I had never set a virtual foot on BBO (Bridge Base Online) until the shelter in place order was announced, I thought some thoughts on my experience might be helpful to other newbies. The good news is that it is EASY! Just navigate to [bridgebase.com](http://bridgebase.com) on your browser and it will walk you through setting up an account, including a username. It will ask you to establish a BBO \$ account and you can create a convention card or use one of their standard ones. In the section ACBL World, you can add your ACBL number and find tournaments that

return some of the proceeds to the clubs (look for the designation SYC, Support Your Club.)

**HOT OFF THE PRESS:** ACBL just announced that local clubs will be able to have their own games online with proceeds going directly to that club. Watch the Blast on Friday for local information when it is available. I’ve only played a few times but the actual game proceeds much like it does at the table. Some opponents are friendly and text “hello” in the message bar; others just jump in and play. As yet I haven’t had to call a director, but there’s a way to do that. Everyone self-alerts. One nice feature is that you can’t bid or play or lead out of turn, because the system won’t let you. And when it is your turn to bid or play a bright yellow bar appears to notify you. If you run out of time, the boards disappear, and the director will send you a note with an adjusted score. There’s lots more on the site that our more experienced BBO players will have discovered - speedball tournaments that take just one hour; the ability to set up a private table or game with friends; who knows what else. Keep exploring!

No cute joke this month. Just stay safe out there.

## Monterey

*By Mary Block*

The major news this month is that the Bridge Center has suspended operations for the time being. The welfare of our members and families is paramount in importance. The original plan was to be closed until

April 1, but the recent shelter in place order from Monterey County is predictive of a longer hiatus. UPDATE: May 11 is the date that ACBL is recommending as the earliest target for resumption of play. That effectively eliminates our May Sectional. Watch your e-mail and check the unit website for further information.

As we have become shut-ins, we are noticing differences in our personal expenses. I am paying a fee to have my groceries delivered but maybe less on impulse purchases. I know I am spending less on gas, but more on my PG&E bill. When things return to normal, I plan to calculate how many days I have missed playing bridge and multiply that number by the amount of income per session that the unit is losing by the closure. (\$3.50). I will donate that amount to the unit. The rent continues even when there is no bridge being played. True, the amount donated to the unit is not deductible as is money donated to the Foundation, but neither is the money I pay to play bridge.

Don't forget to check out Bridge Base Online if you don't usually make use of that platform. Baron Barclay was giving away a couple of their learning resources the other day. Now is a good time to study the resources that you have and get together via e-mail or texts with your regular partners for discussions. Kathy, there will be a test.

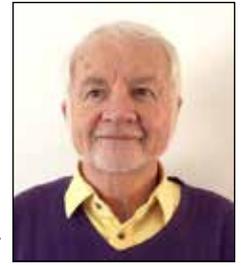
Here's hoping for better news next month.

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

## Napa/Solano/Sonoma

*By Tom Sheahan*

Desperate times call for desperate measures and this is one of those times. I'm not going to fill my slot in the Diamond in the Ruff with my usual drivel because of extenuating circumstances. Mainly we are being held as part of the detainees from the Grand Princess quarantined at Travis AFB. I've been out of the loop at our unit as we are now in day 30 of our 15 day cruise to Hawaii with another 5 days to go.



Things happen and it could be a lot worse and we're just happy that we don't have any symptoms of the virus. It will be a great relief to get home again and be Sheltered in Place where we want to be Sheltered in Place. Our big wish is to have this virus eradicated so we can get back to the people and the game we love. Stay safe and do everything you can to follow the health directives in place. I'll list the January and the few February winners next month.

## Palo Alto

*By Judi Gentry*

On March 5, members of the Palo Alto Bridge Club received this email from the board of directors and club owners:



"Due to the Corona Virus outbreak here in Santa Clara County, the Unit Board of Directors and Game Owners

have decided to suspend regular and unit games as well as other events at the Bridge Center starting immediately.”

This was a surprising announcement at that time (almost 2 weeks before official government instructions.) Most neighboring clubs were still “business as usual.” Rather than causing upset, the announcement prompted expressions of appreciation and support from most players. During the next week, there were numerous small games set up in homes, hoping to keep our minds sharp during what we hoped would be a brief interval. Some players went to other clubs to play. There was the sense that this would soon pass. Of course, things quickly progressed and soon all clubs were closing their doors. I thought: “I never viewed bridge as such a risky activity.”

Some players immediately turned to the internet (primarily Bridge Base) to practice with their friends (or with robots) or to play in a competitive environment. Starting on Sunday, March 15, our unit set up practice tournaments on BBO to facilitate more competitive play. Although I’d never played online, I figured there’s always something to learn. It actually was a lot of fun! With Will Watson as the director, we knew the games would be run well. Yesterday (this is submitted on 3/20), ACBL and BBO started official online tournaments, with most of the money going to our local clubs. Keep informed; developments are occurring daily.

The last event held at the Palo Alto Bridge Club was the 6th Annual Bay Area High School Bridge Championship. 40 students from 12 high schools participated in this year’s event. Many long-time SiVY

kids have shared their love of bridge with their peers by teaching bridge classes, leading bridge clubs, and mentoring. We had many players new to the game.

The Lynbrook High School team came in first for the second year in a row. Competing for the first time, Menlo School came in second place. Olivia Schireson started their bridge club this year. Sarah Youngquist held a practice session the week before the championship. At one point, Olivia broke off with her Menlo kids to review some basic bidding points, like what the shape of opener’s hand is when he bids one diamond. Leland High School came in third with a player who had been playing for one month. (Special thanks to Stephanie Youngquist for this report. What a delight to hear about the growth of bridge among youth.)



*Lynbrook High School winning team Arthur Zhou, David Zheng, Michael Hu, and Alex Zheng.*



*Menlo School team: Olivia Schireson, Lucas Allard, Annika Porteous and Brynn Brady.*

Thank you to our unit leaders for making tough decisions in the interest of health and safety of all members. We are all looking forward to “normal days.” Stay healthy. Judi

## Sacramento

*By Miriam Steinberg*

The Coronavirus equals bridge withdrawal for many, including myself. We're in for challenging months ahead while being shuttered in and banished from our clubs. I've been home for only a week as I submit my column and already feel the impact. Our bridge club nurtures elements of both a community and family. And when you are accustomed to interacting with people multiple times a week, not seeing them can seem like a loss.



Although I will miss everything and everyone from the Sacramento Bridge Center, certain things pop into my mind. I love observing how people dress, for example. And I will miss my partner Marc Grunseth's wild colorful gym shoes and matching shirts, as well Joy O'Dell's matching tennis shoes pants and tops, Ted Muller's funny t-shirts, Michael Grob's preppy shirts, Dave Vidaver's “dress down” look, Carole Ludington's charming hats, Gary Soules's Hawaiian shirts and Jan Soules's very classy outfits.

And I will miss being greeted with Mary Lou Faggella's sly or Annie Christensen's expansive smile as I check in. Or greeted by friends such as Elizabeth Sachs, who is

one of the wisest and most sane people I know. Or Carl Oeser's dry wit or Myrna Rudman's humor—you never quite know what will come out of her mouth!

Then there are the opponents who know perfectly how to screw up my bidding—Gary Soules, Dave Vidaver, Steve Kolodney and Clark Muldavin. And my partner/teacher's wild bids that sometimes seem crazy, but almost always get us a good board. Or Eldon Raber, who is a wild card unto himself. And my dear partner Diane, who kindly doesn't alert what should have been a Drury bid when we coincidentally both forgot about the convention.

I'll be sad not to be able to feed my opponents, especially Dave Vidaver, my lentil chips from Whole Foods. And drive everyone crazy by taking up all the floor space around my chair plus two tables with all of my stuff. And yes, I do bring the kitchen sink along with me to the club! I'll miss the war of the climates with everyone demanding to open or close the door or turn up/down the air in opposition.

I'll miss the huddle around the screen at the end of the game to see everyone's scores and the heated hand record conferences and consultations.

I'll miss the nonagenarians who inspire with their tenacity. And the drama between couples. And Suzi Bogan who always manages to crack me up uncontrollably. I'll miss Kathy Beasley and Ken Hajek and how sweet and diplomatic they are to each other when they disagree. Jim Bowman and Sam Sandusky and their snarky comments. And of course, the wise resident kibitzer, Bob Burgdorf. Of course, not hearing Craig Stalker's infectious laugh

## San Francisco

*By Kimberly Fanady*

will be a loss as well as the calm friendly demeanor of Barbara Wheeler or relaxed vibe of Eileen Hayes, Allen Riker and Pat Ingoglia. And who could thrive without hearing commentaries from Dorothy Mc Dermott? Or without the good cheer of Barbara Muller or Ali Topcu?

I'll miss the bond I share with my partners Marc, Ted, Diane and Ronnie. And the advice from Ted Muller, Gary Soules, John Jefferson, Albert Chow, Steve Kolodney, and Dave Vidaver, among others.

I'll even miss Barney Neufeld's grouchiness; I know he has a good heart beneath the curmudgeon.

And last but not least, the FOOD! The delectable and creative meals of directors Albert Chow (try the Thai curry), Rich Perry and Carl Oeser (and Karen Nelson). The desserts are to-die-for and I often feel like I'm getting fat just by looking at the assortment which ranges from lemon meringue pie, caramel cheesecake, multi-layer chocolate cake, pineapple upside down cake as well as cookies and brownies.

In the meantime, I will try to arrange six-foot apart walks to talk bridge and conference with my partners, or play I-Bridge Baron, Vubridge, and Bridge Base on my I-Pad. And wait patiently until this passes and we can all be together again.

While we all cope with a crazy, scary new world, bridge players just gotta play bridge. All the local clubs are of course closed, but San Francisco players have



moved online in droves. Check out Bridge Base Online: you will find many of your bridge-playing friends, enemies, frenemies, allies, and nemeses there. Just like your favorite club IRL. Our bridge community here in San Francisco is strong, kind, and caring, and with each other's support and the wonderful diversion of our favorite game, we will come through and see each other at the tables again. Until then, sign up for BBO and start clicking!

Congrats to another big group of rank advancers: new Junior Masters Ben Bascom, Gunnar Black, Martha Ehrenfeld, Bill Lynch, Andrew Purcell, and Hans Werner; Club Masters Carol Devincenzi, Robert Pucci, Mark Reed, Uday Wagle; Sectional Masters Jenny Caulfield, Judy Grossman, Andrew Hong, Brandon Wong; Regional Master Mark Isaacs; Bronze Life Masters Mary Kay Leveroni, Julian Standen; and Silver Life Master Jocelyn Startz (way to go pard!). Nice going, everyone!

Welcome to new members Richard Clark, Jesse Costello-Good, and Rosalind Tolson; and transfers Greg Gauthier (Palo Alto) and Doug Hannah (BER). About time, Doug. Be sure to give these new members a virtual elbow bump when you meet them on BBO.

Stay healthy, well, and safe, Unit 506ers!

## San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

### COVID-19 Lament

*Our games are on hold,  
Or so I've been told,  
On account of that darned  
COVID-19 virus!  
Keep your hands clean,  
Avoid any crowd scene,  
Just pick up your mouse,  
And don't leave the house,  
Instead play Bridge on your screen.  
And maybe by May it'll be by us!*

## Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Attaining a new Master status is a goal for many bridge players. Several of our members reached new heights this month. Congratulations to: Janet Tainty, Silver Life Master; John Wesolowski, NABC Master; Carol Cowen, Regional Master; and Susan Pearce, Club Master.

As everyone knows, the Covid-19 virus has caused the cancellation of all tournaments and forced the closing of our bridge club. This month, I'm going to devote most of my column to a profile of one of our members.

Ann Ottenberg is a Diamond Life Master who just happens to have the third



highest total master points in our club. She is kind and generous with a lively sense of humor. I hope she smiles when I say that I consider her one of the Grande Dames of our club.

Born Ann Stokely in Knoxville, TN and raised in Louisville, KY, Ann started playing bridge around age 7. She and her sister, Jane, learned from their grandmother who taught them a 3 person version. Ann became good enough that she was often asked to sit in when the grownups needed a fourth.

I know she thinks she has no accent, but there is a gentle lilt to her speech that betrays her southern upbringing. As a young girl in Kentucky, Ann often rode horses which were rented by the hour from a local stable. All was well except for the time she fell off and broke her arm. Typical for Ann, she looked on the bright side and found that the heavy cast could be used in many other ways, including taming the rambunctious young boys who were the bane of her existence.

Ann and Jane are 2 years and a day apart in age with the worst birthdays ever – just days after Christmas. One year, however, Ann and Jane took matters into their own little hands and threw themselves a birthday party in April, complete with cake and their favorite caramel ice cream.

Her parents separated when Ann was a young girl and she and Jane would travel by train with their nanny to visit their father in Chicago. One trip was especially exciting as the train was in a serious wreck. Ann and Jane weren't hurt, but nanny suffered several broken ribs.

Ann married McClain Johnston and has 4 daughters and a son. Her second

marriage was to Irv Ottenberg who was also a member of our Unit 550 club. A while before Irv passed they decided to adopt a dog. At the animal shelter they were led to a room full of small dogs. One of them immediately jumped into Irv's lap and took command. She wouldn't let any of the other dogs near him. Ann and Irv took her home and Rose is still Ann's faithful friend and much-loved companion.

I asked Ann if she had any advice for newer players. She told me two things: "Play as often as you can and KISS" (which stands for "Keep It Simple, Stupid").

## **Santa Rosa/Petaluma**

*By Cecelia Zachar*

Wow! What a long, strange trip it's been. It seems like it's been months since our Spring Sectional, that weekend when we almost filled Odd Fellows Hall, talking across the tables with our friends and honored competitors and squirting hand sanitizer liberally. Many of us thought the weekend games were the new normal with reduced turnout and less kissing and hugging. Now we're trying to learn how to log on to BBO.

Little did we know that our Spring Sectional on March 7 and 8 would be the last sectional for some time. Our attendance was down due to Covid-19, 30% on Saturday and 15% on Sunday, but we still generated a modest profit due to our fantastic directors, Lynn Yokel and Evelyn Holtz. Lynn independently initiated measures to limit our tournament charges from the ACBL, and Evelyn Holtz accepted

working only one of her four sessions. We thank the many volunteers who brought treats and helped set up and take down the room and our ever-cheerful, exceptional caddies.

Saturday, March 7, was Pairs day at our Spring Sectional. In the open game, big winners were Gary Soules and his wife, Jan, while Unit 509's Erwin Linzner, Lynn Blumenthal, Nancy Gunn, and Bob Klein ranked in the top 4 in Strat A, and Mary Lyons and Robert Rottmayer placed first in B and C. In the other room, the 299ers, in the morning session Brian and Karen Aabel were 1st followed by Holly Gustafson, Kim Fusch, Howard Neckel, and Robert Keays. First in E and F were Jeremy Brott and Joni Conner. The afternoon 299er winners were Kim Morris and Carmen Peace in strats D/E followed by Lawson James, Kim Fusch, Joni Conner, and Jeremy Brott.

Sunday's A/X Swiss winners were Erwin Linzner, Bob Klein, Nancy Gunn, and Asher Nathan. Runner ups were Jennifer Jones, John Kozero, Larry Borsian, and Gary Robinson. Tops in the X were Mary Omodt, Patricia Hertz, Joanne Pransky, and Debbie Tesler. B/C/D winners were Tony Jackson, Harley Conner, Janet Crossley, and Peggy McCormick. In the E strat, the winners were Karen Weissberg, Lynda McGuire, Cathy Netz, and William Walton. Winners of the 299er Swiss were Rebecca Eddy, Jeremy Brott, Joni Conner, and Betsy Todd. Congratulations everyone!

There has been talk for the last couple of years about moving our sectional tournament from the Odd Fellows Hall in Santa Rosa to another venue with better lighting that might be more convenient for

our friends in Marin, San Francisco, Contra Costa, and other counties east and south. We were surprised a few weeks ago when Odd Fellows informed us that they were raising our rates substantially. After considering our options, we have decided to move our sectionals to the Petaluma Community Center near 101 and central Petaluma beginning with our 2020 Fall Sectional. We hope that players from neighboring units will like the convenience and park-like atmosphere of our new venue.

A few months ago we decided we needed an AED, automated external defibrillator, at the Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa. Our fundraising campaign has been highly successful. A big round of thanks to all 69 players who donated money for the purchase. Special thanks go out to Richard Zelenski and Kathy Venton who put on a fundraising stratified pairs event on February 29 (Leap Day) to take us over the top of our goal.

March being a short month, just 12 bridge days at our bridge clubs, we had only one game over 70%. At the Oakmont Residents Bridge Club, Jim Oswald and Walter Schilpp brought in a fine 73.13% on March 3. Way to go!

At the end of February, the ACBL notified us about 7 players who had graduated to a new rank. Our newest Junior Masters were Linda Allen and Phyllis Ashen. John Mohrman is the new Club Master, and Steve Carey and Rebecca Eddy are new Sectional Masters. Our new Regional Master is Jim Dupont, and our new Bronze Life Master is John Shribbs. Congratulations all!

## Silicon Valley

*By Ray Yuenger*

### Club closure and tournament cancellation

This is a column about duplicate bridge in Unit 507, not about the coronavirus pandemic scourging the world today. But the pandemic has had its impact on the local bridge scene, with the Unit Board deciding to cancel a unit game scheduled for March 22 and our spring sectional scheduled for April 3 through 5, and the San Jose Bridge Center directors deciding to close the club through at least April 7 pursuant to the latest orders by local and state public health officials. On March 16, after those decisions were made, ACBL management encouraged closing all club games and canceling or postponing all tournaments through May 11. By the time you read this in 10 days, there will probably be new “stay home” orders to obey. I’m sure you’ll be heeding them, as bridge players are a smart bunch of people, as well as most of us being in a higher-risk group by virtue of age, if nothing else.



### Online bridge and bridge clubs

On the bright side, my unit columns will be a lot shorter for the next few months, unless I can figure out how to track and report the results of online bridge games. Like many of you, I haven’t really dabbled in the games offered by Bridge Base Online (“BBO”), at least not until the San Jose Bridge Center closed and Lynn Yokel started hosting and directing free games,

called “tournaments” on BBO. Lynn has been learning about directing online while several of us have been learning how to play online. She has told me that using the software as a director has its own frustrations, one of which is that she gets no audible signal for a director call, so she has to watch all the tables somehow. It’s also tricky to add someone who shows up late, so if you do intend to play in one of her games, show up 10 or 15 minutes ahead with your partner. You won’t get a seat at the table without a partner. There is a document explaining the game schedule and how to register in the Club News on the website, [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org).

Independently, on March 19 the ACBL started up nationwide “Support Your Club” games on BBO and is now running two a day and awarding black points. You can play for an entry fee of \$5, and \$4 of that fee will go to your club. Initially, at least, “your” club will be determined by where you have been playing in games recorded on ACBL Live for Clubs. If you play regularly in two different clubs, the money will be divided evenly between the clubs.

The San Jose Bridge Center has relocated online. Lynn Yokel is running the one daily game the club is currently allotted. She can set table fees that will at least partly compensate her for her time as well as go towards paying the rent for the closed club. And for playing against familiar opponents from the club, you can earn black masterpoints. Check the [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org) website for the schedule of these ACBL Virtual Club games and instructions on how to register for them.

Actually, I do have an online bridge result to report. In a three-day contest of over 2,000 players, Eugene Hung placed second in the Spring NABC Robot Individual.

### **Tournament successes**

I won’t have any tournament results to report next month, but there are still some results worth noting from the last month. In a Las Vegas sectional, Hisae Izushima & Jim Liu had a stratification top in a pair game.

In District 21’s Grand National Teams contests, Will Watson & Michael Rosenberg were on the prevailing team in the open flight, and Frank Xie, Jim Liu, and Donghui Lu’s team placed first in the B flight. The A and C flights remain to be contested.

### **Rank advances**

Congratulations to our advancing Masters: Suhas Badve, Elaine Hughes (Junior); Claude Ashen, Shirley Shi (Sectional); Judy Reeve (NABC); Andrew Chen, Susan Dietz (Advanced NABC); Laurie Faulkner (Bronze); Norman Marks (Ruby); Cherly Mandala, Ray Yuenger (Diamond). Phew, probably the last advance I’ll make at the rate I’m going.

### **Conclusion**

While we shelter at home to curtail the spread of the coronavirus, we may be spending more time in the online world than we used to. Duplicate bridge is a part of that world, and if you miss the social interactions at the San Jose Bridge Center, you should really try out online bridge. You can welcome your opponents to your

table and chat with them. There are a lot of technical aspects to learn at first, but I'm already starting to feel more comfortable in only a week, and it does seem like the players are putting their best feet forward, realizing we are in this together.

## Stockton

*By Debbie DeZarn*

The Stockton and Oak Park Bridge Clubs have closed as a result of the call for social distancing and sheltering in place. Some of our players have tried the ACBL-BBO-Common Game joint venture of a daily online "Support Your Club" \$5 online Open game that pays black points. There are still some frustrations in registering as the games have been limited to under 200 tables. But I hope that by the beginning of April anyone who wishes to play will find a spot. Go to [Bridgebase.com](http://Bridgebase.com) to set up a free account. Practice games are free but if you wish to play for Masterpoints you will need to add money to your account. Games range from \$1.25 to \$5.00.

There were no Big Games at the clubs before they closed but Bill and Ann Nutting have already been burning up the internet with 72.6% and 73.1% games on the first two days of the "Support Your Club" online games.



Before the clubs closed, several players earned the points needed to move up in their ranks. Congratulations to Mary Westin and Mikki Kindelberger for achieving Club Master. Chuck Wiesen of Tracy has reached NABC Master.

The monthly 99er game for April will not be held due to the risk of holding group activities. I certainly hope we will be open again for STaC week in May as I have already promised Margaritas for the 99er Cinco de Mayo Silver Point Game. If not a physical game, by May there may be a way to hold the STaC games online. Alas, no theme food and beverages.

Before we realized the importance of social distancing, a group of Stockton Bridge Club members participated in a Trivia Event for charity. We were the 4 NoTrump team and each dressed as one of the suits, winning the costume contest! We also scored high at trivia because bridge players aren't dummies, except when we are, ha ha.

Our website at [StocktonBridge.org](http://StocktonBridge.org) will have the latest information on club status and Ann Nutting sends out periodic emails with status updates and invitations to special events. We are all anxious to get back to club play as well as safely attending sectionals, regionals, and the Montreal NABC. Meanwhile, consider supporting your club by playing in the designated online games. About \$4 of the entry fee is returned to the player's usual club to help pay the rent.

**Support your local club!  
Play bridge online.**

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