



## Contents

Diablo Valley By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook (499) .....	2
East Bay By Larry Bowerman (502) .....	2
Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522) .....	4
Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501) .....	6
Marin By Gail Haar (508) .....	7
Modesto By Ray Adams (529) .....	8
Monterey By Mary Block (530) .....	10
Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512) .....	11
Palo Alto By Judi Gentry (503) .....	13
Reno By Sandy Haslem (473) .....	15
San Francisco By Kimberly Fanady (506) .....	17
San Mateo By Melanie Mauldin (498) .....	19
Santa Cruz By Rick Zinman (550) .....	20
Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509) .....	21
Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507) .....	24
Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510) .....	26





## Diablo Valley By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook (499)

### MASK-LESS

May is the fifth month of the year, and usually considered the last month of spring. So, spring forward and enjoy the beauty and sunshine, as we all help to pass it around. If you're playing North and South, East and West, it's time to turn the tables in everyone's favor. Lighten up the day with your bright smile, and let the sunshine in. Remember, it's a great day in the neighborhood!

At the Contra Costa Bridge Center, there's been lots to smile about, as we come back on board to play face to face. Enjoying each other's smile and bright face, as we finally put on our glasses and can see. As you all know Unit 499 is in full service, hoping to fill all tables. I realize folks' hesitancy around the tables, but you still have a choice to wear your mask.

I'll bet many of you have resorted to playing on-line bridge. I too realize it takes a bit more effort to get dressed, drive and play. The advantages of going to your bridge center is showing support for fellow players and your Clubs. It takes a lot of time to start-up a Bridge Center. It has been our place of refuge for many years, and has meant being part of a group, interacting with all Bridgers; but most important is the socialization that this brain – game brings home. Many of us over 65 tend to limit ourselves from outings. Yes, we shop till-we-drop, dabble on-line with whomever, while keeping our distance from others. We all need people!!

So, ladies and gents, start up your engines, get dressed for success, and head back to the bridge tables.

I do hope the month of May will brighten your day! Ciao Bella

## East Bay By Larry Bowerman (502)

First, I hope that everyone continues to be well and stay healthy. I'm still keeping my fingers crossed that the BA2 variant will not trigger a significant new surge!

Second, the EBCBC continues to hold both face-to-face (F2F) and online games. **The latest game schedule and results** can be found by clicking the "Game Schedule and Results" tab on the left side of the Home page of the EBCBC website. All FTF players must be fully vaccinated, and masks are recommended.

Third, the Unit 502 games continue on the first and third Sunday of each month at the EBCBC beginning at 1:00 pm. **As a reminder, if you "scratch," these games provide Club Championship level masterpoint awards.** At the March 20, 2022 Unit 502 Board Meeting, the Board voted to increase table fees to \$10.00 per person to match the EBCBC fee schedule. The increased fees became effective at the April 3,





2022 Unit Game.

Fourth, as mentioned in February, the Unit will hold its first Sectional in 2.5 years on June 25 and 26, 2022. **Mark your calendars now for this popular silver point tournament!** The East Bay Summer Sectional will be held at the Alameda Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, California 94501. **All players must be fully vaccinated, and masks are recommended.** The table fees will be \$15.00 per person per session. The Saturday sessions will begin at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. There will be a Two-Session Stratified Open Pairs Game and Single Session 299er Pairs Games that day. The Sunday "Barbara Harmon Bracketed Swiss Teams" (20VP scale) will take place at 10:00 am and approximately 2:30 pm. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. For additional information, contact Kathy Wolf at [katrider13@gmail.com](mailto:katrider13@gmail.com).

As many of you know, Joyce Hart passed away on December 18, 2021. There will be a Celebration of Joyce's Life on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at 126 Hillside Ave in Piedmont, California. Joyce was a pillar of the east bay bridge community for decades. I was fortunate enough to know Joyce and her husband Richard. For several years I played in their weekly Piedmont game, which had a great feature – a pot of money (generally \$60 to \$100) for any pair who bid and made a Grand Slam! Please attend the celebration of Joyce's life if you can.

**Welcome to the following new Unit 502 members (since February 1, 2022):**

Robert Debare

Brad Carson

**Also welcome to the following people who have transferred into Unit 502 since February 1, 2022:**

Susan Christoffersen

Neil Jacobs

When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

**Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements (February 1, 2022):**

Junior Master: John Turner

Silver Life Master: Ken Wilk

NABC Master: Margaret Garms

Ruby Life Master: Joel Teller

Bronze Life Master: Andy Wasserman





Well done, congratulations and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

**Marcia Wasserman will be writing the next column**, so please contact her at ([marciawasserman@gmail.com](mailto:marciawasserman@gmail.com)) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

## Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello Everyone,

We have a new Website! [FresnoBridge.org](http://FresnoBridge.org) is now operational. It is still a work in progress, but I think we are getting a sense of what we want it to be when it is done. Come check it out and give us suggestions. Our thanks to member Joachim (J) Schirmacher for getting us started!

At the time of the last issue, we were about to have our Fresno Winter Sectional during Presidents Day Weekend. We were a bit nervous as this was still in the ending phases of the Omicron variant concerns. Thankfully, we survived the sectional with no health issues, and, thankfully, no financial issues. Although we did not make money from the Sectional like we normally do, we also did not lose any money.



Our thanks go to Greg Vance (Tournament Director) and Steve Johnson (Partnership Chair). We cut back on some refreshments for COVID concerns, but we still had donuts, prepackaged snacks, and lunches served each day. Thanks go to Don Austin, Laura Da Costa, Steve Johnson, Mary Lou Pease, and Belva Quattrin for their contributions to the lunches and snacks. Thanks to the many members who donated refreshment money or worked to clean up the clubhouse after the games. Also, thanks go to Gloria Fitzgerald for serving as our event

safety coordinator; she worked diligently to take temperatures and check vaccination cards before entry to the clubhouse.

We had two memorial games during the sectional. Sunday morning was the Maggie Mahaffey Bracketed Swiss Team Game. In the Open game, the winning team (from Visalia) was Susan Spears, John Morrison, Andrea Sigmund, & Vincent Cheng. In the 499er game, the winning team was Don & Marion Austin, Gloria Fitzgerald, & Jason





McAlexander. The Sunday afternoon Fast Pairs game was named in honor of Richard Meffley, the winning pair was Anthony Toto & Byron Steinert. The President’s Award winner for most masterpoints won, was Patrick Carroll, and Top 99er was Edward Hampton.

**New Rankings Since Our Last Issue:**

Maura Pennington	Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)
Lori Sandersier	Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)
Rita Gladding	Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)
Ann Keag	NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)
Anthony Toto	Ruby Life Master (1500 Masterpoints)

**We have some special games to report, 70% and above:**

Pair	Percentage	Game
Carol Kaufman & Angie Heisdorf	70.63	Tues. Aft. 750 game (2/22/22)
Steve Johnson & Ruby Buttereck	72.20	Tues. Aft. 750 game (3/1/22)
Lowell Gist & Barbara Thacker	72.02	Sat. Aft. Open game (3/12/22)
Lowell Gist & Cyndi Tingey	71.00	Wed. Eve. Open game (3/16/22)
Maura Pennington & Matthew Wilkins	79.17	Sat. Aft. 99er game (3/26/22)
Maura Pennington & Matthew Wilkins	73.75	Sat. Aft. 99er game (4/2/22)
Patrick Carroll & Bill Glass	71.53	Mon. Aft. Open game (4/4/22)
Robert Durbrow & Bill Glass	72.22	Sat. Aft. Open game (4/9/22)

Two special days are in the works for the next couple of months. **Sunday, May 1st** will be our Memorial Game. The Board of Directors have decided to rename the Memorial Game for Richard Meffley. On May 1st, we will have a Potluck Luncheon at noon in honor of Richard and the other members we have lost in the past couple of years. It will be sad to have a potluck lunch without Richard’s chicken enchiladas or lacy cookies, but it will be nice to finally have our luncheon to honor him. There will be a game at 1 pm.

It is still a long way away, but start planning for **Saturday, June 25th**, when we will have the return of the Longest Day Bridge Marathon. Bridge games from Sunrise to (nearly) Sunset to raise money for the Alzheimer’s Association. A schedule for the





games that day should be posted in the clubhouse soon.

On Saturday, March 12, our beginning bridge students participated in an individual game. It was conducted as a barometer game so that we could stop after each board and explain how we match point a hand. Three tables participated, with many playing in their very first bridge game. First place went to Lori Sandersier, but many others received masterpoints in the game (for many, it was their first masterpoints). Hopefully, we will be seeing many of these players moving into our Saturday afternoon 99er game in the future.

Two of these students became new members to Unit 522 before the game on the 12th. **Welcome to Krishna & Gita Rajani!**

Our free beginning bridge lessons are continuing to be taught every Saturday morning (except for the second Saturday each month). All beginners are welcome to join at any time. Encourage a family member or friend to join us.

## Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)

HELP! HELP! Unit 501 is in dire need of a club owner and directors. Unit 501 is a small unit consisting of 3 clubs: the public Livermore Bridge club, the private Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton club (both owned and managed by Grant Robinson) and the newly formed public San Ramon Valley Bridge club. Unfortunately, two issues require help. First, Grant is moving out of state, so Stoneridge and Livermore need a manager. After Grant leaves in May, we lose the ability to have any BBO games or restart face to face games; and second, the newly formed San Ramon Valley Bridge Club, which has never had a game as it was formed just before Covid, needs to get up and running.

Hopefully, someone out there will be willing to help fill the voids. PLEASE contact: DonGarka - [dgarka@comcast.net](mailto:dgarka@comcast.net) or Grant Robinson - [grantmrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:grantmrobinson@gmail.com)

### Business news

The Unit had its yearly meeting which, of course, was on Zoom. Thankfully, our secretary Jacky Poulsen is a Zoom wizard with an account and was able to set up the meeting. John Liebenberg, John Engstrom and Mindy Kane agreed to continue their service on the board and members unanimously re-elected them. Congratulations. A discussion followed on returning to face-to-face bridge. Although there is a substantial amount of interest, we are hindered by the need for an owner/manager/director. Hopefully, someone will respond to the plea for help. Imagine how wonderful passing out the Ace for Club awards in person would be!

And finally, Rosemary LaFrancesca has resigned as publicity chair. Thank you, Ro,





for years of keeping us up to date. After a futile search for a replacement, yours truly -Don Garka- volunteered to take over the responsibility of keeping everyone informed.

### Lighter news

The club would like to welcome two new people to the unit: Francis McBride and Andrew Rowberg. Also, a few adventurous players from the unit made the trip to Reno. After three initial tries, the team of Jenny Zhou, Rajani Chandrasekar, Don Garka and Norm Bregmann finished second in one of the Bracketed Round Robins. Yay!



### Marin By Gail Haar (508)



The ACBL sponsors an annual contest called the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs which recognizes the top master point winners from club play only in each master point category. The results for 2021 are interesting in that because of the pandemic, most of the points were won playing online in "virtual" club games. Our top point earners in each category are: 0-5, Michelle Slatalla; 5-20, Cynthia Peterson; 20-50, Beverly Stamper; 50-100, Jerald Young; 100-200, Debra Bellings-Kee; 200-300, Shirley Ehrlich; 300-500, Jorgen Hildebrand; 500-1000, Melanie Haddad; 1000-1500, Andrea Ventris; 1500-2500, Linda Danzig; 2500-3500 Jeffrey Reid; 3500-5000; Richard Riezman; 5000-7500 ,Bruce Blakely; 7500-10,000, Bob Thomson; over 10,000, Gene Simpson. The ACBL also sponsors the Mini-McKenney Race which honors the same categories for the most masterpoints won in a given year, both club and tournament. In Marin, the award went to the above players through the 2500-3500 categories – well done all. In the 3500-5000 category top place went to Tracey Bauer; 5000 -7500 to Arti Bhargava; 7500-10,000 to Carol Liss and the over 10,000 to Gene Simpson. Congratulations everyone and we hope to see you at our annual Election and Awards Party tentatively scheduled for June 12.

Kudos also to our players who have leveled up recently. Junior Masters Robert Deutsch and Jillian Wood; Club Master Diane Fanshaw; Sectional Masters Donna Davidson, Michael Goldstein and Kathleen King; Regional Masters Daryl Babbitt, John Loftus, Jerald Young and Elizabeth D’Orazio; NABC Masters Georgiana Farren and Evan Scott; Life and Bronze Life Master Nancy Kuhn; Silver Life Masters Stan Green, Pat Irwin and Mary Tilden; Sapphire Life Master Todd Werby.





The long delayed but much anticipated Marin Sectional was a big success. Kudos to Chair Judy Leedy and Asst. Chair Ann Schweichler for putting on a great event. Lots of folks got lots of points. Congratulations to first place Marin winners go to Debra Bellings-Kee (499 pairs) and to Peggy Strong, Vince Mueller, Natasha Khanderia and Angelo Servino (Bracket B Swiss Teams.)

Our face-to-face games are growing slowly but surely. Come out and meet old friends and meet some new ones. There's lots of good information about scheduled classes and games at [marinbridge.com](http://marinbridge.com) and be sure to read the weekly Blast for any late breaking changes



## Modesto By Ray Adams (529)

### February/March Report

Congratulations are due to Lorraine Bocks. Not only did she recently make Life Master, but on February 19, she won enough points at the Fresno Sectional to put her over 1,000 master points, making her a Silver Life Master. She and longtime partner Gary Smith were first in a morning session and later finished third in the second session, while Jeanne Russo and Gail Vick were also in the overalls for both sessions the same day. Good going, bridge buffs.

Moose beware! One of our favorite bridge players – Galen Neptune – is now back in Alaska, where he has had much success hunting moose and catching salmon and halibut. Galen is known at our club not only for his bridge prowess, but also for providing hungry bridge buffs with corned moose and salmon and halibut dip. Galen originally hails from Ceres and moved to Alaska after retirement to build his own house. He now divides his time between our area and the last frontier state. He will definitely be missed here while he is up in the cold hunting moose.

Lightning struck in our unit on March 8! All the winners that day were B players! Not an A player in sight! Jeanne Russo and Sharon Cole were followed by Joyce Rudesill and Judy Remmers, while Barbara Page and Gail Vick tied with Tom Burton and Don Weld for third/fourth. There were five A players present who did not place, although I have been asked to keep their names confidential. Kudos to our unit's B players! I know you have been waiting for this day for a long time. I hope you have another in the near future.

The Unit is surely glad to hear that longtime unit member Jackie Wilson, who





now lives in southwestern Utah with her husband Roland, made Silver Life Master in March. Congratulations, Jackie! We all know from playing against you that you deserve this honor. Also of note, Samuel Park of Groveland recently made Junior Master. Good going, Samuel!

Don Weld, of Massachusetts, has been visiting a relative in Sonora this past month and coming to our club to play. Don has proven to be very popular and has played with several different partners while winning a good share of master points. Welcome, Don!

The unit staged three Royal STAC games in March. Interestingly enough, the big point winners were actually in B & C rather than A. A leaders were Bruce Ruskin and Frank Frohman with 2.11, Lee Maddocks was second, and Ralph Jungwirth was third. In B, Judy Remmers had 2.74, Jeanne Russo came in at 2.46, and Gail Vick had 1.69. In C, Jaime Hamilton led with 2.49, Jim Page followed at 2.27, Garrad Marsh was third with 1.38, and Terry Sciabica had 1.28.

Judy Remmers and Gail Vick were first overall in the Sunday 1499er game, while Frank and Bruce were in the overalls, and Lee Maddocks was third overall in the district while playing in Orange County, winning over 9 points.

Top percentage games for February and March were Ralph Jungwirth and Judy Remmers with 68.75%, Lee and Frank at 67.86%, and Judy Remmers and Gail Vick were third with 67.42%. This was a nice series of high games, and, as I am sure readers noticed, Judy Remmers scored high twice.

Due mainly to the NFL playoffs, no Sunday games were staged in February, but there were three in March. Point leaders were B: Judy Remmers, Gail Vick, and Connie Arnold, while in C, Terry Sicabica led, followed by Jim Page, Jeff Gaudio, and Marcia and Jim Laird.

Top point winners for the two months were: A, Frank Frohman at 15.74, followed by Sheela Wani, Bruce Ruskin and Lee Maddocks who were all around 10 points earned. In B, Jeanne Russo was first, Barbara Page second, and Judy Remmers, third. In C, Garrard Marsh was first, Jim Page second, Jaime Hamilton third, and Terry Sicabica fourth.

Although our unit staged a Sectional on April 2 & 3, not in March, I will report on the winners for the three days in this report anyway. The A and C strata winners were dominated by Modesto players, while B stratum leaders were all from out of town.

Bruce Ruskin and Frank Frohman of Modesto were the A players who won the morning session of the Saturday Open Pairs event, while Katherine Le Gro and John Medina from the Sacramento area won the B stratum, and Jaime Hamilton and Sharon Cole were first in C.





In the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs, Modesto A players Ralph Jungwirth and Trelle Uhl won the event with a 66% game, the largest percentage game of the tournament. B winners were Rose Knutson and Richard Bianchi of the Stockton area, while Jeff Gaudio and Terry Sciabica were the C flight winners.

The Sunday Swiss Team event was captured by A players Stephen Tu/Ron Powell of the bay area and Lee Maddocks/Ray Adams of Modesto. B flight was captured by foothill players Alan & Susan Hamilton & Robert and Lydia Solomon. The C flight winners were Jaime Hamilton/Sharon Cole, paired with Libby Longstreth/Don Weld.

The overall point leaders for the tournament were Ralph and Trelle in A with 11.74, while Rose and Richard were high pointers in B with 7.58. The C leader was actually Sharon Cole with 4.90 total. However, an honorable mention should be given to upcoming C player Jaime Hamilton who could only play with Sharon twice, since he had family commitments on Saturday afternoon. Jaime won a grand total of 3.95 points.

The true winners in the Sectional, however, were all the bridge buffs who came to play. Tournament chair Barbara Page made sure of that! She saw that there were plenty of snacks for everyone and a free lunch for all on both Saturday and Sunday. She also made certain that the games were played in a friendly and pleasant atmosphere. Special thanks should also be given to her husband Jim who brought in the lunch on both days. Her grandson Connor got boards to the right tables on time and saw to it that we never ran out of snacks, supplies, and drinks. Also, many unit members brought in extra food and volunteered services to set up and clean up the premises. I personally thought that our unit did an excellent job of staging the tournament.

## **Monterey By Mary Block (530)**

We are pleased to report that attendance at the Bridge Center has gradually been increasing in recent weeks. We have held two Unit Games on Sundays, and another one is scheduled for Sunday, April 24. A light lunch will be served, and the game begins at 12:30. This will be the Membership Awards event and those who are receiving awards are being notified. These are open games, and it has been a pleasure to see many of our friends not seen in so long.

There have been a few new faces among the old ones that have started playing face to face again, though haven't seen any new member names on the ACBL report. Proof of vaccination is still required at the Bridge Center; masks are optional

The Board of Directors is searching for a new venue to replace the present one when the lease ends this fall. Several options are being considered; if anyone reading this has any suggestions, please contact a board member.





Charles Olvis is a new Club Master, as are Miranda Morris and Sara Myers. Lynne Weatherman is a new Sectional Master. John Mahoney is now a Regional Life Master. Pat Heller has reached both Life Master and Bronze Life Master status. Joyce Newell is a Silver Life Master.

As always, be sure to check our Unit website at [www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530](http://www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530). Joe Truskot is doing a wonderful job of maintaining and expanding this site to keep our members up to date. A new feature of the website is a partnership registry to assist members who do not have a regular partner or whose regular partner is unavailable. Contact Mano Singham at [mano.singham@case.edu](mailto:mano.singham@case.edu) to be included in the registry.

In addition to being our webmaster, Joe also sends out e-mails of interest to our membership. Some of you may have your spam filters set so that e-mails to a mailing list go into your junk folder, so make sure that [members@bridgewebsemail.com](mailto:members@bridgewebsemail.com) is in your on-line address book.

We are [bridgewebs.com/unit530](http://bridgewebs.com/unit530). 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 Sigrid Price (512)

Finally, we see the light at the end of the tunnel! Masking is no longer required when we are out and about and a fourth booster shot is available for most of us. I read an interesting statistic from ACBL the other day: The average age of Unit 512's membership is 76 and a few months; isn't that amazing! Perhaps we should be enticing our grandchildren to learn our wonderful game.

Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club will not hold a game on April 27th at the Moose Lodge so please mark your calendars appropriately.

The VDBC Pro/Am game held March 30th was an enormous success with 18.5 tables in attendance. It was very much like the "good old days" at Vintage House with many players attending for the first time.

### Winners were as follows:

Strat A: 1st overall: Brian Sullivan & Jonathan Cohen, followed by Robert Keays & Nancy Rude, Knud Rasmussen & Cyde Smith and in fourth place Barry Walner & Richard Tebay

Strat B: Brian Sullivan & Jonathan Cohen (again!) with Richard Keays & Nancy Rude (again!) holding second; Barry Walner & Richard Tebay took third with Lois Lourie and Dan Harp close behind





Strat C: Gwen Davey & Fern Menzildjian took first, Arlene Holt & Richard Davis were second, Sylvia Landt & Roger Bohl held third and Britt-Marie Eldred & Mary Bevins placed fourth

Despite an unfortunate reaction to a new medication by one of our players and the arrival of paramedics, George Gordon did a remarkable job keeping the game moving and filling in. It is unclear where Randy Hoyle and David Becker would have placed in this event as their game was severely interrupted. I think they should plan to partner for the next special event. The afflicted player is recovering nicely and will be returning to the tables very soon.

Word on the street is that we have a new Silver Life Master in our midst: Marsha Horowitz has earned the rank. Congratulations, Marsha! Now Tom (you know who you are!), this means that Marsha should see a beautiful piece of silver jewelry soon, right?

Masks are no longer required at Clyde Smith's Friday game so if that's what has been keeping you away...come on back! Clyde guarantees if you come without a partner you will play.

I am waiting for the final results of the Royal STaC games that were held the week of March 28th, hosted across three districts. The good news is that the STaC games brought more people back to the tables. I know some of our players did well and will be glad to report the finals in the near future.

There is no good way to share the following news. Two of our members recently joined the angels and perhaps are holding cards and enjoying a bridge game with those who went before them.

Kathy Ann Wilson was a regular at Napa Valley Bridge Club and Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club, generally playing with Swan Day. Despite her years of battling lung cancer, she always had a smile and warm word for her opponents. She loved playing bridge and going to tournaments when possible. Kathy once told me she was a "walking advertisement for Keytruda" and that the drug had kept her alive far beyond her expectations. I know we will all miss her at the table.

Malcolm Scott, always partnered with Peg Remaklus, was a great competitor and fearless at the bridge table. He and Peg put our unit's name on the map more than once with their achievements in tournaments. Malcolm enjoyed traveling and unfortunately, during a cruise two years ago with his wife he developed pneumonia and never fully recovered. Peg tells me that Malcolm was "never afraid of going down" and they played online every day he was able, earning over 250 masterpoints, and achieved the status of Bronze Life Master. He lived to celebrate his 91st birthday.





That's it from Unit 512...please enjoy this fine weather!

Sigrid Price, President, Unit 512, [price.sigrid@gmail.com](mailto:price.sigrid@gmail.com)

## Palo Alto By Judi Gentry (503)



Hi Bridge players: Spring has been glorious in Silicon Valley. In spite of unusually dry conditions, flowers are popping out all over the area and trees are covered with blossoms. The Covid numbers are down and -- along with the flowers -- bridge players are showing their faces again. When the Unit first reopened, we were seeing an average of 5 tables in a game. The past couple of weeks have doubled that number.

**NLM Tournament:** On the weekend of February 19th and 20th, the Palo Alto Bridge Center hosted its second face-to-face (F2F) NLM Sectional since the initial closing of the Center in March 2020 due to Covid. The turnout at this Sectional indicates that people are eager to return to play bridge in-person.



After two long Covid years, the PABC shines brightly with full bridge tables. Thank you to our members and friends for participating!



Newcomers bravely attend their first tournament (for most of them) through the encouragement of PABC's cherished teacher, Kathy Harper.

We are happy to announce that we had 53 tables in total and 117 players! We are particularly proud we had 6 newcomer tables (for players with less than 5 masterpoints) on Saturday morning.

For ten of our newcomer players, it was their first time earning masterpoints. Like us, we suspect that many of our readers remember what it was like to start playing duplicate bridge, especially in a tournament setting. Fortunately for these folks, Kathy Harper and our Tournament Director Will Watson, were on hand to answer any (technical) questions and to keep the boards and pairs moving in the right direction.

A total of 55 silver masterpoints were awarded over the weekend to over 60% of the players. But whether or not a participant won masterpoints, 61 players who met the early sign-up deadline or who participated in all four sessions, won gifts in our raffles. We are most grateful for the enthusiastic response we received from almost every





bridge group and professional that we reached out to make donations, resulting in over \$2,300 in value of books and subscriptions and invaluable time from mentors and teachers.

Finally, we are delighted that we were able to successfully pair up 12 partnership requests. We believe that for some of these partnerships, it may be the beginning of a lasting bridge friendship. Enjoying reuniting with friends in-person, meeting new ones, sharing successes and losses, and sharing postmortem discussions are all part of the reason we come back to F2F play. We hope to see many of our members at the PABC in the coming months.

Big thanks to Liz Koh and Dianne Diancarlo whose hard work and enthusiasm produced this wonderful event.

**Congratulations to following unit members who achieved recent rank achievements:**

Junior Masters: Nicole Batchelder, Lisa Steiny

Club Masters: Georgia Lee, Joseph Murray

NABC Masters: Kathleen Danforth

Life Masters: David Merenbach, Roman Weil

- Please note: both Dave and Roman were able to progress to Life Masters by earning silver points in the NLM tournament.

Silver Life Masters: Richard Herzog

Please welcome following players who recently either joined or transferred into our Unit. We look forward to seeing them at our Bridge Center.

Pamela Adams, Jessie Becker, Walter Clark, Julian Gibson, Brahm Levin, Deborah Levin, Pearl Renaker, Karen Saxena, Reema Shah, Bruce Winterhof

“Using Dummy on Defense” Saturday, June 11, 9:30-11

We’re really pleased to announce that we’ve booked Donna Compton for our third celebrity bridge lesson for 2022.

After three lessons on bidding, we’re going to focus on DEFENSE. “Using Dummy on Defense” explores the three different types of dummies and how to defend against them! Your defense will never be the same





The particulars for this class:

Zoom based – 90+ minutes

\$25 per person

SiVY Students: Free!

### **The Firecracker is Coming!**

Join us Wednesday, July 6, 2022 through Sunday, July 10, 2022 for our Firecracker Super Sectional. Enjoy face-to-face bridge at the Unit 503 Bridge Center in Mountain View.

Watch for details to follow.

In the meantime, please mark your calendar. In addition to great fun and an opportunity to play lots of bridge, there will be a chance to meet friends and help the unit by supporting them as a volunteer. So when the call for volunteers comes out, we hope you will consider lending a hand.

We hope you will continue to be involved in unit games, whether you choose to play on-line or face-to-face and support your local clubs. See you at the tables! Judi

### **Reno By Sandy Haslem (473)**

With great sadness, we announce that our dear friend and Unit 473 President, William 'Curt' Follmer, passed away on Friday, April 1, 2022. Curt was a native of the East Bay of Northern California, and after college at Chico State, he ventured into the casino business at Lake Tahoe. He held multiple management and oversight positions in this industry and others, serving the last 15 years of his career as Senior VP and General Mgr. for a hotel casino owned by Bally in Mississippi. Curt became a member of the Reno Mathewson Bridge Center about 5 years ago and was promptly recruited to the Unit 473 Board. He was a caring and witty man and will be missed by all. A special memorial service was held at the Center following the Tuesday Pro-Am game on April 12.





The American Contract Bridge League's 2022 Reno Spring North American Bridge Championships were held in Reno, Nevada, March 10 – 20. The tournament was a great success with over 3,000 ACBL members attending with a total of 6,204 tables of play. Participants enjoyed playing bridge, networking, socializing, and earning Master Points. We even provided our very own Celebrity Speaker for the event, Jill Wallace.



Many thanks go out to our thirteen local members who served as Chairpersons and to the 40 Volunteers (yes, 40 from our local area!) who prepared for and manned the welcome, information, prize and partnership desks and provided hospitality and support to participants throughout the event.

Chairs from our local area:

Welcome Desk Co-Chairs	Ed and Cornelia Gould
Intermediate/Newcomer Co-Chairs	Jill Wallace and Sandy Haslem
Player Hospitality Co-Chairs	Ali Tognoni and Pam Miller
Partnership Chair	Rich Scoggin
Prizes Co-Chairs	Paul and Brenda Pugsley
Information Chair	Ann Little
Program Book/Restaurant Guide Co-Chairs	Dorene Beavers and Leslie Dahm
Charity Chair	Diane Todd

Most importantly, our Unit 473 members are to be congratulated for their impressive Master Points earned at the Tournament. We had 22 local members who earned over 20 MPs in the event. As a group, these members ranked in the top 803 participants out of a total pool of 2,318 MP winners.





Special recognition is given to the following five members who earned over 40 MPs in the tournament:

Name	Rank out of 2,318 MP Winners	MPs Earned in the Tournament
Don Parsons	208	67.19
Susan Powell	234	62.27
Virginia Kellermeyer	302	50.74
Brenda Pugsley	327	47.74
Paul Pugsley	343	46.02

At each NABC, the ACBL Charity Foundation contributes \$5000 to a local tournament committee deciding the recipient. At the Spring Reno NABC, the \$5,000 gift was split between two charities chosen by the district 21 NABC staff: Honor Flight Nevada and Casa de Vida Reno.

Honor Flight Nevada provides veterans with all expense-paid travel for Nevada Veterans to visit memorials and museums for veterans of all wars and conflicts. Their website is <http://www.honorflightnv.org/>

Casa de Vida Reno is a home and support services organization for pregnant young women. They provide residents with a safe home, caring staff, 24-hour supervision and assistance, nutritious meals, education and much more. Their website is <https://casadevidareno.org/>

Mark your calendars for the Reno 2022 May 17-20 Sectional which will be held at the Reno Mathewson Bridge Center. To view the flier please visit <http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/Ads/2022/05/2205346.pdf>

Dates will be announced soon for the Chuck Mathewson Memorial Game, and for two special events featuring Celebrity Speakers Barbara Seagram and Robert Todd. This should be a banner year with the upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you all at the Club.

## San Francisco By Kimberly Fanady (506)

San Francisco bridge players look forward with great anticipation to the return of the San Francisco Sectional on its traditional second weekend in June! Unit 506 will hold its first sectional since January 2020 on June 11 and 12. The schedule features pair games, team games, and beginner/intermediate games — something for everyone! This time around we have a great new location, St. Mary's Cathedral on Gough at Geary. St. Mary's is well known to SF players as the site of our monthly unit games and





(pre-pandemic) of the Presidio and Pips clubs. The cathedral is a nice place to play and easy to get to, so we are hoping for a great turnout. Mark your calendar now and be there!

Speaking of the unit games, they have been rolling along since last fall. Every month the table count goes up and we see more old friends and familiar faces. The same is true for our club games. Attendance is on the rise at both QuickTricks on Monday evenings and Sunset on Wednesday afternoons. If you have been playing, thanks for supporting our clubs! If you haven't, stop by — it's just like old times.

QuickTricks is also extremely pleased to have resumed its very popular beginner bridge lesson series over the last two months. Under the expert guidance of instructor Bob Schwab and assistant Anne Derbes, two longtime Unit 506 and QuickTricks members and very fine players, a class of 20+ newbies recently finished series 1 and are about to commence series 2. The club will be glad to welcome them to its I/N game over the summer. The club expects to offer lessons again in the fall. Check the club website for details if you know someone longing to learn bridge!

Since my last column San Francisco bridge has lost too many of our good ones. We sadly say goodbye to Mary Souza, who graced our daytime tables with her wit and good cheer for many years; and to two of our true icons, Betsy Marcus and Sid Lorvan. Betsy and Sid were easily two of the very best bridge players around, each with remarkable skill and half a century of experience. But more important, both were wonderful human beings. Both always came to play looking sharp, Betsy in fashionable perfectly matched outfits and Sid in suits and ties. Both were pleasant, kind, and gave generously of their time to help newer bridge players learn and enjoy the game by playing in pro/am games and giving pregame talks. Both were always happy to answer questions and give tips to we not-so-new players who still have a lot to learn. All three lived good long lives and will be much missed. Our condolences to their families and many friends.

And ending on a happy note: Unit 506ers Hans and Megan Werneti, QuickTricks members and graduates of the club's Easybridge program, welcomed baby Otto in January. Given the average age of the ACBL membership, how often do we get to congratulate two bridge players on their new little one? Best wishes, Megan and Hans!

Hope everyone has a great summer! See you at the table.





## San Mateo By Melanie Mauldin (498)

### We welcome new, reinstated, and transferred Unit members:

Andrew Call	Belmont	Zoe Martin	Menlo Park
Sandra Chen	Menlo Park	King Prothro	Redwood City
Sidney Chen	Menlo Park	Patty Raleigh	Incline Village
Linda Collins	San Carlos	Shripad Tuljapurkar	Menlo Park
Ken Hoeck	Burlingame	Madison Verner	San Carlos
Patricia Jung	Belmont	Tara Verner	San Carlos

### Congratulations to our new Master Achievements:

#### Junior Masters

- Georgina Eckert
- Janice O'Brien
- Rebecca Whitman

#### Club Masters

- Leslie Ballinger
- King Prothro

#### Sectional Masters

- Debra Martinez

#### Regional Masters

- Kai Eckert
- Paula Linden

#### NABC Masters

- Lucy Ballard

#### Sapphire Life Master

- Andrew Hoskins

#### Diamond Life Master

- Robert Ipswitch

Club games have recently changed. Raad will now hold Limited (750) SMBC games on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9:30, (with a lesson starting at 9:15), and Open (Handicap) games on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, starting at 12:30. All these games will be held at the Villa in San Mateo. Jenny will hold Peninsula DBC games on BBO each week. There will be a game Wednesday evening starting at 6:30 pm, and lessons and games for beginners on Wednesday and Thursday mornings starting at 9 am. (Search Peninsula DBC to find online games on BBO.) Jenny will also be starting an Easybridge 1 class, on BBO and Zoom, for people brand new to the game. For more information, or to find a partner for a game, Jenny can be reached at [jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com](mailto:jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com), and Raad can be reached at [rbunni@comcast.net](mailto:rbunni@comcast.net).





Unit games for the year got off to a great start, with players filling 11 tables in the February game. First place overall went to Jennifer and Phil Kuhn (62%), followed by Claude Hughes and Anne Javer (59%). Third overall and winners of sections B&C were Sharon Sloan and Kit Morse (58%). The March unit game also drew 11 tables. First place in the E-W section, and first overall, went to Carol Lashman and Susan Galleta (65.5%), followed by Carl Ebeling and Debra Martinez (60.9%). The N-S results were more tightly bunched. Loretta Baines and Carole Ringoen (59.5%) took first, with Douglass Ulrich and Gerald Scott (56.7%). Thanks to Janice Carter for organizing the games, and to Raad Bunni for directing.

The April unit game will kick off our Longest Day campaign to raise money for the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Our mentor-mentee games continue online. The February game drew 11 tables. Barbara Lewis and Fred Chasalow (69.7%) finished first overall, and Sheila Felker and Marcus Ballinger (62.2%) were first among E-W pairs. N-S runner-ups were Rita Gupta and Pete Goldsmith (58.3%), and in the E-W section Nancy Rutledge carried her miscreant partner to a 58.1% game. In the eleven-table March game, Debra Martinez Jennifer Kuhn came in first, with a score of 67.8%. Andrew Ehrich and Bob Farkas (60%) edged out Elizabeth Molumphy and Robert Ng (59.7%) for second place in that game. Thanks to Art Quey for directing both games.

Many players from our unit enjoyed success at the Reno NABC. Two who stood out were Alfred Lee and Kai Eckert. Alfred earned a total of 33.46 MPs, 27.41 of which were of the rare platinum variety. Kai earned 35, 28.85 of which were gold. Congratulations to them and to everyone else who did well in Reno.

The ACBL has announced winners of the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards for last year. These go to players who have won the most master points in club games and overall, compared to others with similar master points at the beginning of 2021. The list of winners is in this month's Unitizer.

Mark your calendars for the Non-Life Master Sectional coming up at the Villa on May 7.

With the variety of times and ways to play bridge these days, we hope everyone will find something that works well for them.



### **Santa Cruz By Rick Zinman (550)**

Our unit will continue to follow COVID health and safety guidelines provided by Santa Cruz County. Currently, masks are required at all times (except when eating or drinking) and all players must have proof of vaccination on record.





Face-to-Face games are Monday and Wednesday at 12PM and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 10AM. Bring your own lunch for the games that start at 10AM! There is a new open game on Wednesday night at 6:30PM

Several classes are either ongoing or about to begin. To find out about these classes you can contact the individual instructor via our website:

[https://santacruzbridge.org/SCBC\\_Clubs/clubInfo/bridgeLessons.htm](https://santacruzbridge.org/SCBC_Clubs/clubInfo/bridgeLessons.htm).

### High Scoring Games

Date	Pair Names	Score
02/07/22	Lester Loops – John Wesolowski	72.5%
03/08/22	Ken Johnson – Vin Mcloughlin	70.4%

### Scoring Milestones

Name	Rank
Jared Boggs	Club Master

As a reminder, now that it has reopened, the SCBC is still a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. To see the Unit 550 schedule and calendar, please visit our website at [www.santacruzbridge.org](http://www.santacruzbridge.org). Also, be sure to take a moment to visit our Facebook page.

### In Memory

Longtime member and director, Mark Hasey, passed away the first week in April.

## Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)



March was a big month for Unit 509. Our first sectional since Covid, a crowd of our folks attending the NABC in Reno, and face-to-face games at the Gallery, It has been such a pleasure to see old friends. For many players in Unit 509, March was their first time playing bridge except on BBO or at the kitchen table in 2 years! What a joy this month to see 100 old friends at the table at the sectional. Every time I turned around I had memories of good times in years past. I had no idea I even liked so many people.





The Spring Sectional March 5 and 6 was deemed a great success by all accounts. We began the tournament with an unexpected problem — we didn't have enough tables set up and had to add a new section at game time. We gave



our fabulous director, Lynn Yokel, a real workout, but she pulled through as Lynn does. Our new venue at the Petaluma Community Center provided a spacious, well-lit and comfortable venue. Most of the players were from the North Bay, but quite a few came from the Sacramento area, the East Bay, the South Bay, and San Francisco. Our unit made \$1500, when we were prepared to lose money!

One thing that really impressed me is how generous our unit members were with their time and effort. I've never seen our unit work so well together. Often you attend a sectional and most of the work is done by 3 or 4 people. Not so for our sectional. There was always someone at the refreshment table, smiling, happy, eager to help people get what they needed. We thank co-chairs Harley Conner and Maxine Reagh; baker extraordinaire Tony Jackson; Jackie Ortiz, who provided free water and soda; and all the others who made this a successful sectional including Jim and Judy Duport, Brian Sullivan, Jan Lee, Stephanie Poley, Joni Conner, Director Lynn Yokel, Evelyn Holtz, and Kathy Venton. We are looking forward to our Fall Sectional September 17 and 18, 2022.

### **Saturday Winners**

299er AM: 1st Darylan Stratten and Virginia Demitro, 2nd Cynthia Peterson and Christopher Barnes, 3rd Mary King and Gail Sickler

299er PM: 1st Barbara Harper and Carole Terry, 2nd Arlene Holt and Mary Francis, 3rd Cynthia Peterson and Christopher Barnes

Open AM Session: 1st Dana Murphy and Alan Bostrom, 2nd Bob Klein and Nancy Gunn, 3rd Gene Simpson and Laura Kenney

Open Overall: 1st John Miller and Lynn Shannon, 2nd Kate Hill and Sara Rothmuller, 3rd Mark McCarthy and Arti Bhargava

### **Sunday Winners**

299er: Charlene Stone, Tony Ramsden, Naomi Ramsden, Jean O'Donnell

Mid Flight: 1st James Reed, Carol Reed, Peter Andrews, Irma Andrews; 2/3 Paulette Moe, Patricia Irwin, Mary Teply, Carolyn Farren; 2/3 Kris Wong, Gail Gabiati, Dolores Mackinnon, Bernice Frucht





Top Flight: 1st Evelyn Holtz, Nancy Gunn, Sarita Mathiasen, Bob Klein; 2nd/1st Ax Mary Omodt, Cecelia Zachar, Helene Gay, Roy Redlich; 3rd: John Miller, Edward Barlow, Ronald Powell, Lynn Shannon.

Later in March, Unit 509 had plenty of competitors in Reno this year. Winners in no particular order: Neill Ray, Maxine Reagh, Judy Duport, Harley Conner, Joni Conner, Jim Duport, Larry Spanier, Shelly Dunietz, Tammy McDonald, David Pankratz, Sara Rothmuller, Kim Fusch, Jiang Gu, Kathy Venton, Brian Gilbert, Marion Robertson, Gerri Knilans, Anne Goodman, Patricia Hertz, Larry Wyner, William Taggart. Our big winner was Neill Ray with almost 40 gold points. Congratulations all!

The Reno NABC Daily Bulletin ran a limerick contest. Of the 74 entries, 3 were from our friends in Unit 509. Here they are:

***from Abbe Cohen***

From the NABC we departed  
Winning big left us both happy hearted  
We don't mean to be crass  
But the food gave us gas,  
And opponents all fled while we farted!

***from Maxine Reagh***

Through Covid-19 I was fine.  
I practiced and played and drank wine.  
My bridge game advanced.  
My chops were enhanced.  
Thank goodness for Bridge Base Online!

***from Roy Redlich***

There once was a lady from Reno  
Declaring a contract of 3N  
Without a spade stopper  
It went in the hopper  
She said, "Where's that bottle of pinot?"





Unit 509's clubs have had a difficult time staying open in the face of Covid. The Petaluma Bridge Club's Thursday games started last fall. There was a break for the holidays, but games haven't started up again for one reason or another. They should reopen soon. The Oakmont Duplicate Bridge Club is open for Tuesday night and Friday afternoon games by invitation only. Rules for wearing masks have been on again and off again the last several months. The Bridge Gallery began face-to-face bridge three times a week on March 25 only to schedule its last face-to-face game at the Cleveland Ave. site on April 15. Kathy Venton will continue her BBO virtual games every week and will be opening for face-to-face bridge in a new location in June. Stay tuned.

Few units get to boast a published author. One of our players, Roy Redlich, just finished writing a book on bridge geared toward the intermediate level player. It is called "Judgment at the Bridge Table" and is available through Amazon. The paperback with premium color pages is priced at \$11.95. There is also a Kindle ebook version available for \$4.99. You can find it at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09X25TQT2>.

Many of you knew Randee Dimond. Randee taught bridge at the Gallery and was beloved by her students and most everyone else at the Bridge Gallery as well. She passed away peacefully near her new home in Washington state on March 14. She was loved for her kindness, her sense of humor, her gutsiness, her generosity, the respect she showed to everyone in the room. Her most remembered lesson: "Down one is good bridge!" We miss Randee, but our lives are better for having known her.



Here are the 70+% Virtual BBO games at the Bridge Gallery in February and March: PanetteTalia and Kathy Venton pulled off a 71.1% game for first place against 61 other pairs on February 28, and Mark Randol and Robert Keays scored a gargantuan 76.75% on March 25.

Several players have flown up in rank since our last newsletter.

Our newest Junior Masters are Jeff Sacher and Connie Fischer. New Regional Masters are Joni Conner and Margaret Senneff. CONGRATULATIONS!



### **Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)**

There has been one Unit Board meeting since my last column appeared in February. By the time you read this, there will have been another meeting, but I can't report what hasn't occurred yet.





At the last meeting the Board decided to cancel our spring sectional. We had arranged with District 21 for a date for the tournament, but hadn't located a site, and, more importantly, no new sectional coordinator has been appointed to take over Mischel Postas's position. It seems we will have to put together a team to handle the responsibilities.

A website committee was formed. Our website, [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org), is sorely in need of an update, and you can expect to see a new one by the end of April. I say this as a member of the website committee, along with Lynn Bartz and Rick Jasper.

The search continues for an appropriate site to reopen the San Jose Bridge Center.

One thing the Unit Board has done is to name events at the Reno Nationals in memory of Unit members and players who have passed away recently, including the Loreta Flynn Memorial Monday Morning Side Pairs, the Carole Dietz Memorial Fast Pairs, the Neal Webb Memorial Bracketed Round Robin Teams, the Wendy Dewell of Silicon Valley 299er Pairs, and the Fran Dickman Memorial Top-Flight Pairs. The day of each event there was a write-up in the Daily Bulletin about the person honored. Even if you didn't attend the NABC, you can find links to all the Bulletins at <http://live.acbl.org/bulletins/NABC221>.

My friend and former partner Neal passed away unexpectedly after my last column was written. I heard about it from his frequent partner Annette Powers. For those who don't remember, Neal, Lynn Yokel, and I operated the Tuesday evening game at the San Jose Bridge Center, rotating as directors from February 2000 through September 2004. Neal and I dropped out of the rotation, and Lynn Yokel is still directing the Tuesday evening game, now online. Neal also served as Unit Treasurer from 1999 through 2005.

Michael Rosenberg (with partner Zachary Grossack) won the Mott-Smith Trophy as the players who earned the most masterpoints at the Reno Nationals, winning the Kay Platinum Pairs and with their teammates winning the Jacoby Open Swiss. Kevin Rosenberg's team placed 4th. In another national events, Wendy & David Fotland had a section top in the 0-2,500 pairs.

In regional events in Reno, Carolyn Drozdiak's Swiss team won its bracket. Roy Tsai had a section top in a gold rush pairs.

At a Goodwill dinner, Ray Yuenger was given District 21's Goodwill Member of the Year award.

In less pleasant news, the ACBL decided to allow optional masking in Reno. Almost daily starting Monday, the ACBL sent emails warning players that someone in their event had a positive Covid test. At least two unit members had positive tests.





Both are on the mend, to my knowledge. I played for only four days. When I returned home, I learned one of my teammates for those four days had a positive test. Luckily, my home tests have been negative. I must say after a couple of years with little face-to-face bridge, it took me a while to get in the rhythm of keeping score and alerting partner's bids, not my own.

Before the Reno Nationals, other venues have resumed holding face-to-face tournaments. Lynn Shannon & John Miller won a pairs event at the Oregon Trail regional. They also won a two-session pairs event at the Santa Rosa/Petaluma sectional.

After Reno, John Hodges was first in a pairs event in the online Hollywood Magic regional.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Robert Pruitt (Club); Alicia Breyer (Sectional); Kumar Ramaiyer, Archana Rathnakar, Kathy Vita (Regional); Jan Piffner (NABC); Donghui Lu (Life); Paul Davis (Ruby); Ken Rosenfield (Gold).

## **Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)**

Congratulations to Carole Seed who became a Life Master upon winning her final Gold Points in Reno in March! Carole joined ACBL prior to 2010 and earned a point or two, but was mainly a social player until retirement freed up more time to get serious about bridge, take some lessons, and pursue club and tournament play. She and some friends became regulars in Debbie's monthly 99er game at the Stockton Club. They went to their first NABC in San Francisco in December 2019 and cleaned up (lots of red points) in the Novice games! Early victory is a great motivator. Online games for the next 2 years provided the bulk of the points but the final Gold came from wins in Monterey and Reno. Of those 99ers, Mary Westin is really close to LM, and Margaret Stovall and Mikki Kindleberger are moving up the ranks as well.

I am not sure I recognized Sue Winter when she reached Club Master a while back so will do so now. She plays in the Modesto Club but did play once in the Stockton 99er game before the pandemic. Also, Brent Ritchie of Murphys reached Club Master. Although announced by Korey at Oak Park, the "Big Games" of over 75% were finally published in the Bridge Bulletin for Usha Bansal and Joan Garcia (April issue) and Mort Horn and Dennis Del Paine (February issue).

Attendance at both the Stockton and Oak Park clubs picked up a little in March thanks to the Royal STaC games and perhaps nice weather and lower Covid rates as well. There will be another STaC Week in May but with the usual Silver points only. Come see Maryanne's Spring themed quilt at the Stockton Club and taste some of the rotating "substantial" snacks such as 7-layer dip with chips, vegetable plate, or meat-cheese plate with crackers which show up a couple of times a month. Most people still





bring a personal sandwich or salad, but there are almost always chips, pretzels, and nuts. It was so nice to see Carol Hakeem at the club again as she brings candy! Mary Hill and Lynette Foppiano have also brought substantial treats on occasion, and lots of almonds by Debbie Greenberg, but generally, come play but don't expect food (except at the monthly potluck which will be April 24th rather than the 17th).

Board Member applications were solicited by the Nominations Chair but only one person indicated willingness, so Usha Bansal was appointed to the vacancy and the remaining members agreed to stay on for another two-year term. Therefore, the Board voted at its March meeting to cancel the Spring election. Shirley Womack is thanked for her service and thoughtful work as "Sunshine Chairman". Wendy Buchanan has taken over so let her know if someone is facing a challenge and might enjoy a little cheer from club members.

I want to thank the Modesto Club for putting on a nice Sectional Tournament in early April. It is the closest one to Stockton and has always included great food. At least 18 Stockton Unit (including Mountain clubs) players supported it with most winning a little something or more.

