Contents

Diablo Valley By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook (499) 2
East Bay By Larry Bowerman (502) 2
Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522) 5
Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501) 8
Marin By Tracey Bauer (508) 8
Modesto By Ray Adams (529) 9
Monterey By Mary Block (530) 11
Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512) 12
Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503) 13
Reno By Sandra Haslem (473) 14
San Francisco By Denny Arar (506) 15
San Mateo By Melanie Mauldin (498) 16
Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550) 18
Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509) 20
Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507) 23
Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510) 25

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

SPRING BACK TO THE TABLES

April is a lovely month for playing bridge. 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 eagerly come back to the tables, let's show sensitivity to our opponents and partners. I personally was harassed by a player and called the Director. Should this happen to you, don't hesitate to call for assistance. Help is on the way.

My favorite stone, 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.

Our new location in Orinda is bursting at the seams. Our Thursday, 999 game, usually is filled to the brim. It's a nice facility, located with hilltop views.

I'm shocked to hear about a lady who came to a bridge center *on a Gurney*. Us bridge players will do just about anything-to PLAY BRIDGE. We love this game. It's a brain challenge that keeps on giving! And never say "It's only a game." For some it's a life-savor!

Warm regards.

East Bay By Larry Bowerman (502)

I hope that everyone is enjoying some nice spring weather after the wettest California winter that I can remember. At the beginning of April, I looked at the rain totals for the year to date. Amazingly, Oakland has had more than 30.5 inches of rain so far (the normal for the year is 18.7 inches)! We've definitely exceeded all expectations for a good year of rain.

On Saturday, April 8, 2023 Unit 502 participated in the ever-popular **Tunnel Tournament**, the friendly competition for "bragging rights" between Units 499 and 502. This year the Tournament was hosted by Unit 499, and the two-session (18 boards per session) format continued. Thanks to Jackie Zayac (Unit 499) and Grant Vance (Unit 502) for their efforts to make the Tunnel Tournament a success!

Thanks to Sandi Davis for compiling the following summary of the results, which appeared in the 4/9/23 EBCBC weekly newsletter:

> "*The Tunnel Tourney was held yesterday in Orinda*. The results are in and *Unit 499 won the event!* The game was divided into two sections, an Open game with A, B, and C strats; and a stratified 0-750 game. Points were awarded to the top winners in each strat. There were 17 tables all together. Unit 499 had 11 tables entered in the event and Unit 502 had 6. The following pairs from Unit 502 were our top contenders. Nice job everyone. It was close (40 to 33), but no cigar! The next Tunnel Tourney will be in 2024 and will be hosted by Unit 502.
>
> - Grant Vance - Peter Bonfanti, 2nd in A (Open)
> - Catherine Molnar - Elliot Zeller, 1st in B (Open)
> - David Pratt - Ed Seputis, 2nd in B (Open
>
> o Honorable mention goes to: Gunnar Niemi - Tom Pajak (Open, A), Donna Rolle - Loretta Dimitruck (Open, C), Jeff Fountain - Lisa Euphrat (0-750), and Allan McAllister - Margaret Garms (0-750)"

Unit 502 will hold its first Sectional this year on June 24 and 25, 2023 at the Mastick Senior Center in Alameda. It's not too early to put this popular event on your calendars! The new venue has had excellent reviews. We are hopeful that attendance will continue to grow back towards pre-pandemic levels. Thanks to everyone who is helping to make this a successful event!

The EBCBC continues to hold both face-to-face (F2F) and some 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 F2F players must be fully vaccinated, and masks are recommended.

In addition, Doug Handler's Piedmont Bridge Club offers virtual games on BBO on Monday at 7:10 pm, Wednesday at 2:10 pm and Thursday at 7:10 pm. Table fees are $6.00. Contact Doug at 925 938-4493 or dough0918@aol.com.

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.** Beginning in April 2023, the Unit will once again provide a light lunch (sandwiches, chips and treats) before the game at no extra charge.

Breaking news from the 4/9/23 EBCBC Newsletter (Thanks again Sandi!):

"F2F at the club: There are games every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday so come out and play!

- Club Championships: Monday, April 10 - Friday, April 14. Extra masterpoints with no extra fees.
- Charity Games: Monday, April 24 - Friday, April 28. These special games will be $12/person with the extra fees going to a charity chosen by the ACBL.
- ACBL-wide Charity Game: Wednesday, April 26. This special game will be $12/person with the promise of huge masterpoint wins if you are lucky enough to place in the nation-wide overalls.

Online Games:

Our only online game is limited to those with less than 500MP and is held every Tuesday morning at 10am. The fee is subsidized by the Unit and is $5 (instead of the usual $8)

- Silver Lining Game: Tuesday, April 25. All masterpoint awards will be SILVER! The fee for this special game will be $7"

Welcome to the following people who are new members or have transferred into Unit 502 since February 1, 2023:

Carmen Anthony

Andre Fargeix (transfer in)

Sukumar Mukherji (transfer in)

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

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements since February 1, 2023:

Junior Master: Barbara Sarkisian

NABC Master: Frank Silver

Life Master and Bronze Life Master: Fred Schwartz

Ruby Life Master: Carol Warren

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

front of you!

I will be writing the next column, so please contact me at (lmjtbow@pacbell.net) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)

Hello Everyone, I hope all are well and survived the last 2 rainy months.

Upcoming Events

On Sunday, April 30th, we are planning on another Pro-Am Team game. Potluck at noon, game at 1 pm. Remember no partners are necessary, just be sure you are there (or had phoned in) by the 12:45 team draw.

May 1st – 7th is Royal STaC Week. A great chance to win those elusive pigmented points at our clubhouse. Masterpoints awarded will be 25% gold, 25% red, 25% silver, and 25% black. Hope you join us in one or more sessions that week.

We have a board meeting next weekend, but I am fairly certain that we will be scheduling our Longest Day game at the meeting. For now, assume our marathon of events will be on Saturday, June 24th. Be on the lookout for flyers as soon as we set a schedule.

Unit News

Special Games: The Fresno Winter Sectional was held on Presidents Day Weekend (Feb. 18-20). What a great sectional! After barely breaking even in our last two Open sectionals, this one was back to being a successful money maker. Our thanks to the wonderful team contributing to make this tournament run so smoothly. That team starts with Greg Vance (Tournament Director) and Steve Johnson (Partnership Chair). We had an amazing hospitality team headed by Hospitality Chair Belva Quattrin, and including Laura Da Costa,

Mary Lou Pease, Cyndi Tingey, and Judy Zimmerer. This team, along with the Unit, kept us well fed with lunches each day. Also, thanks to Don Austin, Steve Johnson, and Anthony Toto for their contributions on serving lunches and coffee duty. These individuals and many others also provided snacks and helped with clean up. We also want to thank those who donated money towards the lunches.

Overall, we had 72 tables in this 3-day sectional. The big winners were visitors Lynn Shannon & John Miller from Campbell, CA. The President's Award winner for most masterpoints won by a Unit 522 member, was Victor Greener, and Top 99er winners were Maura Pennington & Matt Wilkins. Thanks to all who attended and congratulations to all 66 players who won masterpoints. Also, thanks to Maura Pennington and Marion Austin for the photos.

Fund Raiser: We held our Bid-A-Partner event for the first time in quite a few years. A big thank you to the players who donated themselves as the "partner" to the event and to Gerard Laquerriere for donating multiple sessions of lessons to both the top bidder and runner up. In total, we raised $745, with still a few donations coming in.

Club Changes: Lessons and beginner games are starting to make a big difference in our clubhouse (just look at the new members in the Member News section). Don Austin has been switching around the games and lessons until he has found a combination that seems to be working. Tuesday evening are beginning lessons conducted by Don and Lowell Gist. Saturday mornings now have a slightly more advanced beginning lesson from about 10:45 to 11:45. Attendees for that lesson can play in the 99er game at noon for free. Needless to say, our 99er game has been a steady occurrence since the change.

The new addition to the beginner games and lessons is our Friday 49er game. Don and Lowell give a quick topic lesson at 12:45 pm then hold a game at 1 pm. So far, this game has been an individual game, but we hope that they will be turned into a pair game when attendance becomes more steady.

Other clubhouse news: we have a new ice maker! Yay! Smaller, quieter, and just so darn cute. We are thrilled to have one again.

Member News

New Members: We are thrilled that our beginner lessons are leading to quite a few new members. Since February's issue, we have added Anthony Gamber, Valerie Goya, Patty Head (that's Rosalie's daughter), Marianne Kast, Sally Lauritzen, and Jocelyn Neville. Welcome to Unit 522 to all our new members.

Change of Ranking: Couple of major rank changes to report. One, Farid Assemi has earned a Platinum Life Master ranking. The highest ranking you can achieve in the ACBL without a National title. Congratulations, Farid!

Second big news, Cynthia (Cyndi) Tingey has made Life Master. Yay! It has been a while since our last new life master, so we are very pleased that she earned the title (actually, as you will see below, she is coming in on the Bronze level).

New rankings for February 2023 & March 2023

Neville Abraham	Junior Master (5 mps)
Winder Pell	Junior Master
Mary Warner	Junior Master
Barry Katz	Club Master (20 mps)
Lori Sandersier	Club Master
Matthew Wilkins	Regional Master (100 mps)
Cynthia Tingey	Bronze Life Master (750 mps)
Farid Assemi	Platinum Life Master (10,000 mps)

We have just a few special games to report, 70% and above:

Pair	Percentage	Game
Cheryl Hiney & Pamela Pigg	70.0	Thurs. Aft. 750 Game (2/16/23)
Mary & Tom Warner	70.0	Sat. Aft. 99er Game (3/18/23)
Bonnie Corcoran	71.88	Fri. Aft. 49er Indiv. (3/24/23)

Wow, that was a lot to discuss in this issue. Next issue in June. In the meantime, keep up with what is going on in the clubhouse on our Website at fresnobridge.org.

Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)

The Livermore Bridge Club has been successful with its Monday games by having 7 to 11 tables. This has allowed us to expand the schedule by adding the first two Thursdays of the month. Check out livermorebridge.com to see the up-to-date schedule and who will be directing. All games in April will be Charity Club Championship Games and in May will be Grass Roots FUNd Games. These games provide extra points and are only $7. Singles are always welcome as we will provide a partner, so please show up 10-15 minutes early in order to meet your partner! We do have 4 directors who are available now, but if anyone is interested in directing in Livermore, please let us know!!

The Unit had its Annual Membership Meeting was held on February 20, 2023, at the Oddfellow's building in Livermore, CA. This was the first in-person meeting since 2020 Covid pandemic shut everything down. The four board members with expiring terms were Dan Bergmann, Don Garka, Art Mirin, and Jacky Poulsen. All four were voted back on the board. The board then named Art Mirin as President, Sheri Esrkine as Vice President and Don Garka as Webmaster. The other Unit offices did not change: Treasurer Linnea Cook, Secretary Jacky Poulsen, and Partnership Director Dan Bergmann.

Marin By Tracey Bauer (508)

Spring is here and our annual Sectional is upon us:

MARIN UNIT 508 SPRING SECTIONAL APRIL 22 AND 23, 2023

@Redwood High School Gym 395 Doherty Drive Larkspur, CA

***Arti Bhargava** is doing the partnership desk, 415.305.9347*

***Judy Leedy** for any other questions, 415.336.6468*

Click Here to see the flyer, we hope to see you there!

- Here's your chance to practice for **Marin's Spring Sectional with a Team Event coming up on Sunday, April 23** on Monday April 17th at Terra Linda from 12:00 until 3:30,
- Two sections: 499ers and OPEN!
- Please contact Henry @ 415-572-9458

Notable finishes from Marin Unit members at the North American Championships in New Orleans, just the major events are mentioned:

Todd Werby: 9th Place in the Fast Pairs

Bill Bailey: 4th Place in the Jacoby Swiss Teams

Mark Peterson: 32nd in the Silver Pairs

Bill Bailey: Vanderbilt KO Teams 9/16th

Arti Bhargava: 27th Rockwell Mixed Pairs

Tracey Bauer: 54th Rockwell Mixed Pairs

Bill Bailey: 35th Silodor Open Pairs

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES:

(These games are all held at the Terra Linda Community Center)

- Sunday, April 16, at 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 28 at noon
- Wednesday, May 5 at noon
- Friday, May 21 at noon.

Our Website, marinbridge.com, **Unit 508 Facebook page,** click Here

Tracey Bauer tlcinsf@hotmail.com

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)

March saw an experiment with instituting Saturday Invitational games instead of Sunday Invitational games. The result was that all Invitational games will now be on Saturday. As readers know by now, no A players are allowed in the Invitational games. B leaders for the two months were: Jeanne Russo with 3.28, Libby Longstreth at 1.56, and Judy Remmers with 1.44. In C, Terry Sciabica led with 3.09, Marcia and Jim Laird followed at 2.88, and Jim Page was third with 1.71. On March 3, Terry Sciabica and Jeff Gaudio won across the board, finishing first in A, B, and C. Way to go, you two! High scores for the month were: 64.50% by Jeanne/Terry on the March 25, 63.54% by Jeanne and Cindy Rogers on the eighteenth, and 60.42% by the Lairds, also on the eighteenth.

Judy had Monday games on both February 27 and March 27. Don and Judy

Kropp won the February game with a whopping 70.8%. Gil Roberts/Lynne Fenderson were second, Lynn Brooks and Lynn Pont came in third and fourth were Christine Banuelos/Pam Rozycki. In March, Jane Griffith & Elaine Kidd dominated with a wonderful 70.32% game. Second were Colleen Blackman/Nancy Simas, with Christine Banuelos/Pam Rozycki third, and Cathie Peck/Sheila Carroll finishing third.

Our unit did well in the Fresno sectional in February. Lorraine Bocks and Gary Smith won more than nine silver points, while Barbara Page and Gail Vick won over four. Unfortunately for the unit, Gail has moved to Fresno on a three-month trial basis. Lorraine and Gary teamed up with unit members Pat Gallo and Dee Heller to win more than two points in the Swiss Teams, while Barbara and Gail played with Debbie DeZarn/Debbie Greenberg from nearby Stockton to win about 2.5 points. Garrard Marsh went to the New Orleans Nationals in March and picked up about fifteen gold points. This means Garrard has also advanced from a C player to a B competitor.

There was no unit game in February, since there was a conflict with a national sporting event. There is – as I understand it – a grass roots movement to make Super Bowl Sunday a national holiday, but so far Congress has failed to act on it. However, there was a unit game in March. Winners were Sheela Wani/Ray Adams with a 68.06% game. B leaders were Frank Frohman and Don Weld, while Sharon Cole and Louise Nelson led the C players.

High scores for the two months were: an astounding 75.69% effort by Lee Maddocks/Frank Frohman, followed by a 71.53% game by Sheela Wani/Ray Adams, and 68.75% by Ralph Jungwirth and Trelle Uhl, which just edged out the 68.23% game by Roger Smith and Gary Capwell.

High pointers for the month were: A, Frank Frohman with 19.19, second, Ray Adams at 15.46, and third, Ralph Jungwirth at 11.71. In B, Galen Neptune led with 10.76, Garrard Marsh was second with 10.07, and Pam Mayne was third at 8.34. In C, Louise Nelson led with 3.52, Terry Sciabica was second at 3.08, and Don Weld barely edged out the Lairds for third, 2.89 to 2.88.

The unit will definitely miss Galen Neptune who is not only a remarkable bridge player, but is also a great fellow who brings dishes he made from fish he caught in Alaska to our games. Galen had by now returned to Alaska until he returns in October. Galen celebrated by finishing first in his last game in Modesto this spring with a nice 69.54% game.

Well, most of the winter and early spring rain has fallen by now and we can look forward to good weather outside and a good climate for bridge inside in April and May.

Monterey By Mary Block (530)

The election for the Unit 530 Board of Directors will be held during the month of May. Anyone who is interested in running for a position should contact a member of the nominating committee, either Kathy Pfitzer at kathypfitzer@gmail.com or Mary Block at maru0407@comcast.net.

Welcome to new members of the Unit, Barbara Santry, Keith Dodson, and Kathryn Wilson. The following members have moved up in rank: Patricia Johnson is now a Junior Master; Mary Cary Coughlan and Joan Aldrich are Club Masters; Francine Tabak is a Sectional Master; Meg Galloway is a Regional Master, and Steve Rubin has reached the exalted status of Gold Life Master.

Not directly related to Unit 530, but one of our most valued members has been named Citizen of the Year by Carmel-by-the-Sea: Donna Jett. Donna was on the Unit Board of Directors for many years and her social and event-planning skills have been a welcome asset.

Hetty Eddy is continuing her Monday Shuffle and Play sessions. These consist of a mini-lesson and guided casual play. Contact Hetty at hettyeddy1@me.com for information, including upcoming Beginners' classes. You may not need beginning classes, but you may have friends who are new to bridge or, like so many of us, have not played since college. Or you may have friends who play party bridge whom you would like to introduce to the joys of duplicate bridge.

New officers and members of the Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation are: President, Ken Gaskins; Secretary, Fran Soskins; Treasurer, Kurt Schnebele. At large members are Hetty Eddy, Neville Kirby, Jim Lauderdale, and Mano Singham.

Our monthly unit games are continuing to be popular and are helping us with our revenue raising. Bridge and Brunch on one Sunday each month is enjoyable and enables us to see players we do not see often.

As always, be sure to check our Unit website at 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 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 is in your on-line address book.

We are bridgewebs.com/unit530. The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is montereybridgeeducation.org.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512)

Northern California weather never ceases to amaze me. One day is cold and wet, the next sunny and fine, as it was Easter day when Spring arrived, seemingly overnight. I hope everyone had a great day enjoying family and the welcome sunshine.

There are several special events planned for the balance of April and into May and June as follows:

- April 17, VDBC, the ever-popular Pro-Am game, 11:30 it will be an Upgraded Club Championship
- April 18, VDBC, Upgraded Club Championship, limited game up to 499 masterpoints, at noon
- April 19, VDBC, Upgraded Club Championship at 11:30
- April 21, Napa Valley Bridge Club, Upgraded Club Championship at 12:45
- The week of May 1 through 7 all clubs are hosting STaC games (remember $1.00 extra) **note that points awarded are now allocated as follows: 25% gold, 25% silver, 25% red and 25% black**
- May 15, VDBC, Club Championship Spring Fling Potluck starting at 10:45; the club will have ham for your dining pleasure, bring a side dish or dessert to the festivities
- May 16, VDBC, Club Championship 11:30
- May 17, VDBC, Club Championship 12:00
- May 18, VDBC, Club Championship 11:30
- May 19, Napa Valley Bridge Club, Club Championship at 12:45
- June 5, VDBC, North American Pairs 11:30 and $1.00 extra
- June 7, VDBC, North American Pairs 11:30 and $1.00 extra
- June 9, Napa Valley Bridge Club, North American Pairs 12:30 and $1.00 extra

The first quarter of Mini-McKenney leaders are as follows:

- 0-5 MPs, Peter Pinfield 1st and Stephanie Hamilton 2nd
- 5-20 MPs, Timothy Crew 1st and Fern Menzildjian 2nd
- 20-50 MPs, Howard Bye-Torre 1st with a tie for 2nd held by Judith and Robert Vandenberg
- 50-100 MPs, Robert (Bob) Bruce 1st and Tad Quayle 2nd
- 100-200 MPs, Marge Sheridan 1st and another tie for 2nd by Susan and Pat McGrath
- 200-300 MPs, Cynthia Crawford 1st, Curt Jeschke 2nd
- 300-500 MPs, Eleanor (Nora) Gauger 1st, Helen Bohl 2nd
- 500-1000 MPs, Carol Fraser 1st, Lynn Dondero 2nd
- 1000-1500 MPs, Richard Tebay 1st, Tom Sheahan 2nd
- 1500-2500 MPs, Sue Vogtlin 1st, Sylvan Karfiol 2nd
- 2500-3500 MPs, Clyde Smith 1st, Anita Pensler 2nd
- 3500-5000 MPs, Jeffrey Ferrero 1st, Joanne Wegsten 2nd
- 5000-7500 MPs, Ralph Slick 1st, Tom Jacobson 2nd

Some of these races are very close; good luck to all of you!

If anyone is interested in discussing the many conventions available to us, please consider coming to Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club at 10:30 on Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome and all questions will be answered to the best of my ability.

We will miss Carol Reed who passed away recently. She and her husband Jim frequently attended Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club.

Sending my best to you all for a lovely spring and plenty of good times at the bridge table!

Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)

We are delighted to see so many players back to the Palo Alto Bridge Center (PABC) for tournament play. Most recently from March 31 to April 2 we hosted an Open and Non-Life Master Sectional, drawing in 206 tables over three days. This represented an increase of over 30% from last year's fall Sectionals.

We also hosted the District's' first ever one session "Local Sectional" on March 17 and had a great turn out.

Keep your eyes open for more exciting events at the PABC, including our biggest event of the year, the Firecracker, from July 5th to 9th. This year the Firecracker will include a **Non Life Master Regional** as well as the traditional open Sectional. This is District 21's first NLM Regional. More details regarding our event should be in your inbox shortly. Please be part of the fun and volunteer to help out!

We continue to experiment to bring people back to the PABC and we are receiving positive feedback from our members, nearby units' members, and from the District. We continue to have a steady number of players attending our daily face to face games. We are excited to have Lynn Yokel return for our free lecture series on April 18th. And headlining our celebrity lecture series on April 22 is Barbara Seagram.

We hope that all of our offerings — daily games, competitive tournaments that draw players throughout the Bay Area and beyond, lectures at the Club, our vibrant mentor/ mentee program and educational classes taught by the best teachers in the country, will entice all of our members to come in and join in the fun! We hope to see all of you in the coming months.

Reno By Sandra Haslem (473)

It's the time of year to recognize our Member Achievements for the 2022 Barry Crane Top 500, Mini-McKenney and Shanbrom Ace of Clubs.

We are so proud of Don Parsons who placed 329th with 462 MPs in the "Barry Crane Top 500" MP Race. The Barry Crane Top 500 recognizes the leading ACBL members who accumulated the most masterpoints during the calendar year.

Congratulations to our members who won the Mini-McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Races. The Mini-McKenney recognizes winners at each level of achievement by the ACBL each year. The Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs recognizes achievement for points being won at the club level with the exception of those won in Sectional Tournament as Clubs (STaCs).

BEGINNING MP RANGE	**MINI-MCKENNEY**		**HELEN SHANBROM ACE OF CLUBS**	
	Name	**MPs 2022**	**NAME**	**MPs 2022**
0-5	Mike Robinson	45.50	Mike Robinson	28.43
5-20	Richard Bartlett	26.35	Valerie Castor	23.45
20-50	Maryam Jabbari	47.37	Maryam Jabbari	22.55

50-100	Leigh Zerboni	47.64	Nancy Croom	27.23
100-200	Rolando Grijalva	159.23	Patrick Campbell	73.52
200-300	Barbara Mickle	285.13	Barbara Mickle	155.83
300-500	Donna Neff	134.96	Ron Haines	55.16
500-1000	Don Rogers	210.70	Don Rogers	107.50
1000-1500	Susan Powell	332.91	Susan Powell	130.85
1500-2500	Don Parsons	461.76	Don Parsons	192.78
2500-3500	Kathy Lane	197.04	Kathy Lane	106.21
3500-5000	Virginia Kellermeyer	220.08	Virginia Kellermeyer	115.35
5000-7500	Gil Ramirez	190.61	Gil Ramirez	75.81
7500-10000	Charlotte Falk	172.22	Charlotte Falk	87.72

San Francisco By Denny Arar (506)

Spring arrived with a lot of bluster in San Francisco, leaving tree branches on sidewalks and roadsides. But bridge players gathered, undaunted, for various festivities. At QuickTricks, we dined on pizza and salad for the annual commemoration of club founder Tadd Waggoner, while members of the Chinese American Bridge Club celebrated the year of the Hare with — what else! — a Chinese banquet. I'm proud to report that Ray Fong and I won this year's Dr. Tsang trophy game at the CABC.

Vicki Lerner and Don Friedman topped the overalls and North-South pairs in the March unit open game. Rick and Stephanie Rogers, also N-S, came in second, while Dolores MacKinnon and Bernice Frucht led the East-West pairs and came in third overall. Kristine and Matthew Therian took 499er game honors.

On the masterpoint ladder, Shazia Makhdumi, hot on the heels of achieving life master status, is now a bronze LM. Ryan Gossiaux, meanwhile, rose to Regional Master; Tom Reis became a silver LM; Jeanette Shinsako claimed gold LM honors; and Anant Rathi is now a sapphire LM. Congratulations to all!

San Mateo By Melanie Mauldin (498)

We welcome members who are new to the Unit:

Ellen Ablow	Woodside	Alan Norman	Woodside
Chuck Horstmann	Menlo Park	Stephen Schneider	Montara
Emily Kim	Belmont	Jun Shi	Half Moon Bay
Andrea Koontz	Portola Valley	Donna Soehrens	Menlo Park
Paul Koontz	Portola Valley		

Congratulations to everyone who recently achieved a new Master level:

Junior Masters

- Ellen Ablow
- Harriet Garfinkle
- Paul Koontz

Club Masters

- Irina Auerbuch
- Alfred Fricke
- Arthur Lund

Regional Masters

- James Curry
- Debra Martinez
- Kent Taylor

NABC Masters

- Carl Ebeling
- Kai Eckert
- Marie Parfitt Pattie

Advanced NABC Master

- Lucy Ballard

Life Master

- Robyn Lee

Diamond Life Master

- Fred Chasalow

The Unit held games in February and March. The February game had seventeen tables: ten in the Open section and seven in the 499er section. First place in the Open section N/S went to Janelle Van Rensselar and Sue Papilion. First in E/W went to Will Watson and Susan Zhang. In the 499 section, Jana Torchia and Elena Powers placed first N/S; John Kwan and Allan Abrams placed first E/W.

In the March Unit game, first place in the Open section N/S went to Fred Chasalow and Sarite Griffin, and first in E/W went to Bob Gleason and Beth Eggers. In the 499er section, first place N/S went to Donna Jang and Allan Abrams and first in E/W went to Madhukar Mehta and Molly Roff. Thanks once again to Janice Carter for organizing our

Unit games.

Monthly mentor/mentee games continue, with over fifty players participating in the program.

The Unit's Sectional, held in February, had a great turnout. The largest session was on Saturday morning, with 42 tables. We averaged 37 tables a session. In the Saturday 2-session Open pairs competition, Mathew and Jun Shi came in first, Will Watson and Susan Zhang placed second, and Narayan Mohanram and Vandana Vidwans took third. Chuck Simmons and Doug Siefert won the morning Open side-pairs game.

Gail Cameron and Lauren Rosen won the 499er Saturday morning game, followed by Lucy Ballard and Debbie Carey. In the afternoon 499er game, Lucy Ballard and Debbie Carey placed first, with Elizabeth Majchrzak and Dirk Epperson coming in second. The morning game also included the Art Weinstein trophy competition for players with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Carol Lashman and Susan Galletta won the trophy this year.

In Sunday team competition, Daniel Kroll, Robert Balas, Chris Chen, and Brent Xiao won the A/X game, followed by Lynn Bartz, Lynn Yokel, Jack Verson and Michael Fleisher. The three winning teams in the bracketed Swiss game were: Brenda Hatton, Eusebio Menezes, Eunice Menezes, and Anne Wilson; Greg Gauthier, David Leaver, Kathryn Barnard, and Mary Steele; and Aravind Alwan, Shazi Makhdum, Prashant Sriram, and Rajeef Jog.

Thanks to District 21's newly elected president, Anne Hollingsworth, for coming to the Sectional.

Congratulations to the following teams for their high games (70% +) in February and March: Deborah Penrose and Kathy Hamilton (74.07%), Kai Eckert and David Weight (70%), Sandy Fricke and Al Fricke (76.39%), Mili Delbecq and Nancy Rutledge (77.08%), Al Fricke and Chris Ely (72.22%), Kit Morse and Bob Gleason (75%), and Philip Kuhn and Jennifer Kuhn (71.3%).

The Unit is sad to lose Nancy Chapman, who passed away on March 20.

Mark your calendars. The April Unit game is on the 22nd. The Unit will hold a NLM Sectional at the Villa on May 20. This game is open to non-life masters who have fewer than 750 points. Lastly, the District 21 Spring Regional will be held at the Doubletree in Sacramento, May 29th - June 4th. Hope you enjoy a spring full of fun bridge games.

Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)

The Santa Cruz Bridge Center is welcoming our members and friends back to Face-to-Face (F2F) bridge. The wet winter and early spring, are increasing the number of tables at the club. Members are enjoying the rainy days with good company and cards!

Our new board has increased face to face games over the past two months. To entice more members back to the club, we have added a 499er Monday evening game at 6PM, and a Wednesday evening Open game at 6PM. On Sunday afternoons, at 1PM an open game has also been added. The fourth Sunday game of the month, an $8.00 brunch, starting at 12:15 PM is served. The food is prepared by our own chef, Heather MacGregor. The Sunday brunch game is very popular, with 6-7 tables!

In addition to the new weekly games, we have instituted "social bridge" for newer or returning players on Monday afternoons with a lunch, lesson, and social play. Nancy Wainer, Bette Harkin, Kristin Smith and Carol Avenmarg work together to make this popular event happen.

SOCIAL BRIDGE GAME MOVING TO MONDAYS IN APRIL

Currently, we continue to hold FTF open pairs on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 10AM. A 499er BBO virtual club game is played Tuesday evenings at 6:30PM, followed by a hand review on Wednesday mornings on Zoom from our pro Ken Llacera. For more information on games and times, please visit our website at: santacruzbridge.org.

A special welcome to new members, who have joined us from September through March: Sam O'Neill, Craig Smart, Shamim Formoso, Catherine Foy and Daphne Morrissey.

Achievement titles earned in January, February and March:

- **Junior Master (5+):** Jim Miller, Jeanne Jorgensen, Barbara Rodrigues, Katherine Stone, and Anthony Nelson.
- **Club Master (20+):** Amos Hahn.
- **Sectional Master (50+):** Albert Low, Jared Boggs, Marilyn Calciano.
- **NABC Master (200+):** Gina Brown.
- **Advanced NABC Master (300+):** John Wesolowski.
- **Life Master (300+ or 500+):** Howard Feldstein, John Walker, Angie Millslagle, and John Oppenheimer.
- **Bronze Life Master (500+):** Howard Feldstein, Bette Harkin, and John Oppenheimer.
- **Silver Life Master (1000+):** Rick Zinman.
- **Ruby Life Master (1500+):** Janet Tainty, Claire Swetland, Diana Schilling.

Congratulations to each of you, YOU ROCK!

UNIT 550 *Represents* at the MONTEREY REGIONAL CLAMBAKE held Jan. 2 - 8, 2023.

Many of our members enjoyed playing in, and winning at, the **Monterey Regional Clambake**. Kudos to **Marilyn and Drew Calciano** who participated in their first regional tournament and won gold, coming in first in both sessions! Word has it, they played excellent defense. Kudos also to **Robert Johnson** and **Kristin Smith** won gold, coming in first in both sessions, well done friends!

Unit 550 Rising Stars Tournament a big success!

Played over the weekend of March 11 and 12th a good time was had by all. Several out of town players stopped by to tell our tournament committee we have the friendliest, most welcoming club in the area.

Kudos go to **John Oppenheimer** and **Tomasz Pawlowski** first place OA in both AM and PM, WOW! **Bruce Berwald** and **Richard Bartholomew** who were 2nd overall in AM play. **Nancy Pringle** and **Jim Miller** rocked earning 3rd OA in the AM and came in 2nd OA in the PM game. In the PM game great play by **Linda Downing**, and **Barbara Tidmore**, who were 4th OA and **John Walker**, and **Nancy Ficarotta**, 5th OA. The teams of **John Wesolowski** and **Robert Johnson** along with **Marti Jones** and **Farol Henderson** were 5th and 6th OA in Swiss on Sunday…. way to go y'all.

70% + scores achieved in February and March:

2/07/23 Carol Cowen and Steve Nelson - Tuesday night 499er BBO 73.6%

2/08/23 Ken Llacera and James Slinger - Wednesday Mid day Open 70%

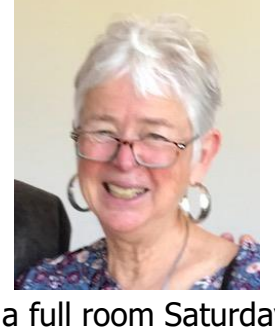
2/08/23 Eric Stolzberg and Mark Riley - Wednesday Evening Open 71.5%

2/22/23 Kristin Smith and Nancy Wainer - Wednesday Evening Open 83.3%

3/22/23 Claire Swetland and D. Webb - Wednesday Evening Open 77.2%

Come on back to the club and play Face to Face meet new friends and reconnect with old friends and partners. While we continue to maintain a policy of mandatory vaccination, masks are optional. We are a scent free facility.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)



April 2023 (Feb 9 - Apr 9)

Our Spring Sectional March 4 and 5 was held at the Petaluma Community Center. What a great sectional! We had players come from all over California: Marin, Sonoma, Napa, San Francisco, Stockton, South Bay, East Bay, Colma, Lake County, and the Sacramento area. Get this! We even had players from Canada! We had a full room Saturday for the Pairs with 42.5 tables in spite of our rainy weather. In the Sunday Team Game we had 30 tables.

Lynn Yokel was our esteemed director, with help from Evelyn Holtz. The hot and cold beverages were plentiful and available throughout each day. The assortment and quantity of delicious snacks, many homemade, were the subject of many happy comments about our hospitality.

Sunday's lunch that Jackie Ortiz provided (that means shopped for, paid for, prepared, cooked, cleaned and transported) was highly appreciated by all. We enjoyed an assortment of six delicious salads, and many people expressed their gratitude for having this free lunch. Our caddies were thrilled with the generous tips they received, over $150 each.

Saturday Open Pairs winners strats A and B were Andrea Ventris and Henry Kingdom. Wesley May and Richard Ross won strat C. Winners strat D were Jeremy Brott and Joni Conner, and strats E and F winners were Muna and Hatim Tarazi. Sunday

Flight A and A/X Swiss winners were Gregory Vance, Andrew Hoskins, Matthew Haag, and Jason Chiu. Swiss Flight B and C winners were Ron Chestnut, Jane De Briyn, Ronald Welch, and Karen Rocco. Swiss Flight D winners were Wesley May, Richard Ross, Dana Shelley, and Philip Abrahamson.

A little spot of joy — Debbie Greenberg came to Petaluma all the way from Stockton looking for the 1.65 masterpoints she needed to make Life Master. She played Saturday in the open pairs and came in 8th overall in the C strat, winning 1.20 silver. That left her needing .45 masterpoints to walk away with her Life Master. Her challenge was that one of the members of her Sunday team had enough masterpoints that the team was competing in Section A against players like Gregory Vance, Gene Simpson, Sara Rothmuller, Kate Hill, Bob Klein, Nancy Gunn, et al. For each match in the Swiss Team, a win was worth .23 silver points, so her team had to win 2 of the 6 matches. They won 3 matches for a total of .72 masterpoints making her the newest Life Master in D21. A very good day for Debbie.

We had our first 2023 Unit game on Sunday, February 19, at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 North McDowell, Petaluma. Tony Jackson presented the lesson: Doubles. All kinds. A quick review of takeout doubles and negative doubles led into a "no, you pick a suit, partner" exposition of Responsive Doubles and all its subtle ramifications. A 22-page document accompanied the lesson that was full of explanations and examples, then questions and answers to test your understanding. Following the lesson and a lovely lunch, we had 10 full tables of bridge. Winners N/S were Jim and Carole Reed followed by Shelly Dunietz with Patty

Hertz and Nancy Gunn with Bob Klein. Winners E/W were Larry Borsian and Gary Robinson followed by Neill Ray with Maxine Reagh and Jackie Ortiz with Dana Murphy. First place paid 2.92 black points.

Unit 509 players did us proud in March at the New Orleans NABC. Three of our women players placed well in the Smith Life Master Women's Pairs, a four session pairs event. Kate Hill came in 3rd overall for a whopping 56.25 Platinum points! Had she and her partner scored just a wee bit higher, they would have earned a national title! Add to that, two other fine players, Evelyn Holtz and Sara Rothmuller, finished 9th out of 94 pairs in the same event to win 28.57 platinum points.

Our second unit game of 2023 took place on March 26. Before the game, Tony Jackson presented a great lesson on Competitive Bidding. He covered topics including maximal doubles, the law of total tricks, modern losing trick count, and why to double for penalty after a 1NT overcall if you have 9 points.

After the lesson, Dana Murphy and Kathy Venton provided a delicious lunch of quiche, salad, focaccia, and carrot cake.

We had 9 tables for the March 26 Unit Game. The game was limited to 1500 masterpoints and stratified. Darylan Stratten and Virginia Demitro, a C strat partnership playing E/W, won the game with a nice 60.93%, winning 1.66 masterpoints. Other winners were Roy Redlich, Jeff Sacher, Dana Murphy, Laurie Vree, Judy Duport, Howard Balfour, and Lilyan Frank. Congratulations all.

Darylan Stratten and Virginia Demitro

Our unit board is hoping to start another club in Santa Rosa in May. It will be run by the unit instead of by a private owner. More to come….

Since our last report, 3 pairs have had 70%+ games at the Bridge Gallery. On March 2, Jerry Besses and Jackie Ortiz scored 72.07%; on March 30, Evelyn Holtz and

Sara Rothmuller scored a very impressive 75%; and on April 4, Nancy Rude and Robert Keays scored 72.22%.

On BBO, Mark Hersko and Debbie Tesler scored 73.49% on February 26 for first of 116 pairs. Mark Hersko and Jackie Ortiz had a 70.54% game on March 18, and Panette Talia scored 70.72% on the same day with Tom Jacobson. Mark Hersko (he shows up all over the place, doesn't he) and Cecelia Zachar scored 1st of 168 pairs for a 73% on March 21.

We've had a few players progress through the ranks. Our newest Regional Masters are Lisa French and Helen Yost. Lori Kiefer is our newest Bronze Life Master; and Roy Redlich, our newest Silver Life Master. Congratulations, all.

Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)

My last unit column was composed eight weeks ago. There have been two Unit board meetings during that time. The biggest news is the upcoming Unit 507 ("U507") spring sectional scheduled for the end of the month, April 29 and 30. The location of the sectional, like last time, is the Palo Alto Bridge Center. Unit 503 is kindly cooperating with nearby Units to host our sectionals. You can see the sectional flyer here. There is also a link on our website, sjbridge.org.

My last column mentioned the start of a San Jose Bridge Club on Wednesday mornings in a local church. After a little over three months, the club's attendance seems healthy, averaging around 10 tables, sometimes with a separate section for 499ers. See details on our website. It's nice to see the players pitching in at the end of the game to put away the tables, chairs, bidding boxes, and BridgeMates.

If you are interested in learning to become a club director in U507, the Unit Board will reimburse you for director training. Contact me or another Board member for details.

The Unit Board is looking for dates and locations to hold our annual member appreciation unit game this summer, and also a limited sectional, and also another unit game.

A Nationals was held in New Orleans in March. Kevin Rosenberg distinguished himself in national events. His team was second in the Jacoby Open Swiss. He placed third in the Silodor Open Pairs, playing with his father Michael, and 15th in the Kay Platinum Pairs. Jung Hu was 20th in the Smith Life Master Women's Pairs. Frank Xie & Donghui Lu were 16th in Flight B of the North American Pairs. Milind Girkar & Shailesh Sampat were 12th in Flight C.

In regional events at the NABC, Carolyn Drozdiak's team won their bracket. Lynn Bartz & Michael Fleisher and Richard Reitman had section tops in the same two-session

pairs event.

Before the NABC, at the Oregon Trail regional, Lynn Shannon & John Miller were second in a two-session pairs game. At the Tucson regional, Anne Wilson's team won their brackets twice. At the San Diego regional, Shaomin Zheng's team won their brackets twice. Zheng also had a stratification top in a pairs game.

At the Fresno sectional, Lynn Shannon & John Miller won two pairs games.

At the San Mateo sectional, teams with Anne Wilson and Aravind Alwan won their respective brackets. In the 499er pairs, Xiaoling Lai & Li Zhang and Bill Roman & Monica Bacon-Proctor each had strat tops. Will Watson and Richard O'Brien had section tops in the open pairs. Will placed second in the event.

A team with Matthew Haag & Jason Chui was first in the A/X Swiss at the Santa Rosa-Petaluma sectional.

John Stremel had two section tops in mid-flight pairs in the spring online regional, once with Joanne Cornbleet.

At a Palo Alto sectional, Frank Xie won a two-session stratified pairs event. Jesse Fang & Jian Fang won a non-Life Master pairs event. Stephen Tu's team won the A/X Swiss. Linda Nemmer's team won their bracket. Will Watson had a section top in an open pairs event, as did Sathya Bettadapura & Arif Janjua. Jan Pfiffner & Li Zhang had a section top in a NLM pairs event.

In GNT competition, Michele Liu, Shailesh Sampat, & Milind Girkar were on the prevailing Flight C team.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Susie Brenner, Richard Lordan (Junior); Jian Fang, Richard Johannsen (Club); Li Zhang (Regional); Kathy Vita (NABC); Joanne Cornbleet, Chung Lau (Bronze); and Barbara Luttrell (Sapphire).

It's time to consider whether you'd like to be elected to the Unit Board. Every year, the terms elapse for half of the dozen members. We meet monthly online. If you're interested in serving, let me or another Board member know.

Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)

Finally Spring has come to Unit 510 with weather in the mid 70's for the past few days. No more fighting over the thermostat at the Stockton Club which has been so cold in the mornings. Attendance at the Oak Park Club has been up with 11 tables recently and Stockton holding steady at 5-½ to 8-½ tables.

Happy belated Birthday to Marilyn Minden, Toni Hillman, and Zulka Dozier all of whom celebrated at the Stockton Club with cake and pizza. These women contribute a lot to the club by bringing pizza, sandwiches, and cake to the club as a special surprise treat for everyone. Then Toni cleans up as bridge players are not known for their neatness. Let's all do our best to clean up our own areas before leaving the club.

The Mother Lode Club has moved from Angels Camp to Murphys. The Diggins is a senior community with a spacious clubhouse and the Monday game is now held there bimonthly at 12:30 pm. The Sonora Club plays f2f every Friday at 12 noon, and the Gold Country Club continues bimonthly at noon on Wednesdays in San Andreas. Although two of these clubs are technically just outside Unit 510's geographic area, the majority of the players are Unit 510 members. All clubs are maintaining a healthy 5-7 tables."

The Unit website has posted a photo and the news that Debbie Greenberg reached her goal of Life Master in March! She wants to thank all those who were willing to travel with her to get those last 20 silver points by playing in Sectionals many weekends over the winter. There have been others who reached new Ranks as well: Carole Seed and Mary Westin are now Bronze Life Masters (500), and Korey Baumbach became a Silver Life Masters (1000). Congratulations to all. Sylvester Price, who recently passed 20 points, had a great experience on a bridge cruise and his first NABC in New Orleans and nearly doubled his points, including winning 7 gold points.

There has been some sadness in our Unit with many hospitalizations and slow recoveries still in progress, but I want to specifically mention the unexpected death in March of Howard Parker, III, the Unit's only Platinum Life Master with over 13,000 masterpoints and a former Director. Howard is survived by his life partner Maryann Sievers. Here he is on his birthday in December 2022 before his cancer diagnosis in late January.