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

March Madness means Tournament of 65 college basketball teams, in which all teams battle to a sudden death situation, meaning if they lose they lose. It's just that simple, right?

Well, take that to the bridge table and chomp on it. Yes, it can be March Madness each time we play the game, and we're hoping to remove the mad from madness, and replace it with glad; displaying our "Cool-as-a Cucumber" attitude. When you know you have your opponents over a barrel, graciously accept the win. For some folks, this is the only social outlet they have, and correcting new players when they've made a mistake and gloating, is downright distasteful. If the other team asks for your opinion, so be it; but unauthorized criticism is best kept to yourself. And yes, I've given my share of unsolicited advice. Mum's the word!

Have you ever had to eat humble pie? Well, I've eaten my share at the bridge table. I don't like losing, and I don't think you do either. Losing gracefully is a misnomer. Others at the table will console you with "We all come in last sometime" "Heck, it's only a game", but when they lose, they become crusty crabs or worse, snapping turtles and just watch their faces turn beet red. And then they're the grumbler's, like myself, who complain because we just can't get a good hand. I have heard some say, "We're bored playing defense". Well, I'm again turning over a new leaf, by accepting what I've been dealt and keeping a poker face. (That will require me to put a bag over my head.)

Unit 499 is still sassy as ever. Busy with tournaments and more. Yikes!

We post lots of info on our website DiabloValleyBridge.com, for the latest news.

East Bay By Tom Pajak (502)



We're gearing up for the next "Tunnel Tournament" on April 27th. It's an ongoing contest between Unit 502 and Unit 499 that's friendly yet competitive. It's called the Tunnel Tournament because both units are on either side of the Caldecott Tunnel and year after year we rotate the location. In April it'll be Unit 502 hosting the event at the East Bay Community Bridge Center. It's always fun to compete and, of course, a delicious lunch is served between sessions—and it's well known that Unit 502 serves the very best food around! If you're a member of either Unit 502 or 499 watch for the forthcoming flyer and plan to sign up.

Unit 502 got a few new members recently. Andy and Carla Shockley moved over from Unit 499 since most of the games they play are in Oakland and we're delighted to have them in our family. They're regular Friday players and they most often go home with a few masterpoint crumbs, too. Welcome, you two. And coincidentally, Derek



Shockey has migrated to us from the San Francisco unit. His name is spelled with one letter just like Andy's and Carla's, so I think he needs to get together with them the next time we have a Swiss Game to keep it all in the family. I haven't met Derek yet, so next time you're at the tables, Derek, let me know who you are. I'm also welcoming back three players who once were in Unit 502 and who've decided to re-join: Leslie Crall, Ann Belcher, and Asieh Mansour. I'm sure you'll be pleased with your decision, since we're a friendly group and you'll always feel welcome whenever you show up to play.

Our regular players already know this, but if you're unfamiliar with our Unit Championship games that are held every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, you really need to come and play. Game time is 1:00 pm at the East Bay Community Bridge Center and the fee is \$10 that includes a lunch—so show up early like most of the 'regulars' do to raid the kitchen. We offer sandwiches of various types, chips and accompaniments, desserts, coffee, tea, and quite often homemade extras that are delicious surprises. The game is stratified so even if you're not that experienced you can still play in the lowest strat to compete with your peers. The masterpoint awards are greater because our games are all Championships so you can build up your point total a little faster if you and your partner manage to scratch. If you've been holding off on playing Sunday afternoons, don't delay...grab your favorite partner and head to the bridge center for a great game plus a free lunch—all for just ten bucks.

On January 21st the unit board voted on a slate of volunteers to assume various director positions. The new President is Grant Vance; Vice President is Rob Johnson; Secretary is Sherry Larsen-Beville; Treasurer is Andy Wasserman. At-large members are Brad Carson, Joseph Held, Tom Pajak, Cole Powell, Fred Schwartz, Libby Silver, Loretta Dimitruck, and Don Levine. The board is here to serve you, answer your questions, hear your gripes, and make changes you might suggest. The main events handled by the board are the two sectional tournaments—one held in June and the other in November. We also sponsor North American Pairs (NAP) games in June, July, and August plus a delicious hot dog lunch with all the trimmings to celebrate Independence Day on July 7th (because that's a Sunday), and a not-to-be-forgotten Holiday Banquet on December 15th where the board goes all out making a full turkey dinner to enjoy after the game. If you've ever partaken of this in the past, then you know it's not to be missed.



Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello everyone, this is our first issue of 2024! I hope your year is going well so far.

Past Events

Sunday, New Years Eve: When we had our yearly election for

Board of Directors, we also surveyed members to see if there was an interest in having an early New Years Eve celebration. We found there was an interest according to the survey, but we really had no idea until 4 pm on December 31st, how many would actually attend; after all, we not only were competing with other New Years celebrations but also members were already



**Happy
New Year
Unit 522**



heading to Monterey for the Regional that started the next day. Much to our great pleasure, we had a large and happy crowd that evening. We started with an amazing pot luck lunch at 4 pm. The Club Championship game began at 5 pm, and there was 8 ½ tables present. Winners is A were (N/S) Laura Da Costa & Gail Vick and (E/W) Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere (who were first Overall). Winners in B were (N/S)



Laura & Gail and (E/W) Ed & Rhonda Hampton. Winners in C were (N/S) Tom & Mary Warner and (E/W) Ed & Rhonda.

This game was so well received, there was talk about making it an annual event. Next year it falls on a Tuesday evening, so we will have to see if that is workable.

Unit Championship Pro-Am Teams: We had a Pro-Am Team game and potluck on Sunday, January 21st. We were able to make up 6 teams, and it was great to see so many of our players had under 100 points. Everyone managed to win at least one of their 4 matches; in fact, it was so even, no team managed to win even 3 of the 4 matches. The winning team based on victory points was Laura Da Costa (Captain), Steve Johnson, Barbara Diebert, & Anthony Gamber. We try to have these Pro-Am Teams multiple times a year. I hope you will join us at a future game.

Upcoming Events

Fresno Winter Sectional: If you are reading this the day it is sent out, you still have time to find a partner and join us for the start of this Sectional. It is starting this Saturday, February 17th and continue through Monday, February 19th (Presidents Day Weekend). The flyer can be found [HERE](#).

Mentoring Game: March 3rd will be another Mentoring game. This event was very well received in October last year, so we decided to try it again. In this event, mentors are stationed as North and play with one of the mentees while other mentees pair up East and West. Though we play hands and E/W move around the room like a game, the mentors teach about bidding, playing, and defending during play and after each hand. Since we are playing barometer style (each table playing the same boards at the same time), we even have a quick lesson about match pointing (where our scores in duplicate games come from). The lesson runs for 2 to 2 ½ hours.

St. Patrick's Day Lunch/Game: When we found that March 17th fell on a Sunday, we just had to make a game that day. We are planning on a lunch beforehand (yes, corned beef will be served). It will be a pair game, so find a partner. More about the lunch and game will be posted at the clubhouse closer to March 17th.

Members News

Board of Directors: The first Board of Directors meeting was held in January (before the Pro-Am game). We welcomed Anthony Toto back to the Board after a few years off. Anthony took Belva Quattrin's spot as she chose to step down from the board. We want to thank Belva for her hard work as Sunshine Chair and Hospitality co-Chair. The officers remain the same as we have last year: President Don Austin, Vice-President Laura Da Costa, Secretary Margot Cegielski, and Treasurer Lowell Gist.

**Change of Rankings:** New rankings for December 2023 & January 2024

Junior Masters (5 mps)

- Bonnie Corcoran
- Kamlesh Mahendru
- Jocelyn Neville

Club Masters (20 mps)

- Mary Warner
- Tom Warner

Sectional Master (50 mps)

- Jeffrey Wood

Regional Master (100 mps)

- Patricia Creede

Gold Life Master (2500 mps)

- Anthony Toto

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

Pair	Percentage	Game
Howard Arquette & Ray April	73.21	Sat. Aft. Open Game (12/16)
Barry Katz & Andrew Graves	71.43	Tues. Aft. 750 Game (1/2)
Valerie Goya	71.88	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (1/5)
Marsha Infausto & Judy Geary	74.58	Tues. Aft. 750 Game (1/16)
Ivy Darden	81.25	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (2/2)
Tom Warner - Mary Warner	71.43	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (2/3)
Norma Kaser	75.00	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (2/9)

Lessons

Saturday Morning Lessons: We moved the start time to 10:30 am and have been going through more extensive lessons on Play of the Hand. After the Sectional, we plan to include some more thorough Defense lessons. The \$10 for the lesson also allows the students to play in the noon game.

Clovis Adult School: Don Austin has only a few sessions left with his beginning bridge lessons through the Clovis Adult School. Once again, these lessons brought in some fresh faces to our clubhouse. Seven ladies joined us. Hopefully, they will continue to participate in our lessons and beginning games when the sessions end.

That's all for this issue, I hope to see you this weekend at the Sectional! Remember to keep up with club events on our website: fresnobridge.org.



Gilroy/Morgan Hill/Hollister By Jim Craig (524)

Face-to-face play continues to grow in Unit 524. Stone's game is sometimes bursting at the seams in Gilroy at the Senior Center with 12 or more tables, and the Hollister (Buena Vista) game is sometimes up to 4 tables. Returning players and the new players that are continuing are all great to see.

Monterey Clambake Regional

A number of Unit members were active at Monterey. The competition was great and the hands seemed rather crazy at times. It was a fun atmosphere and opponents came from all over. Newer players should consider checking out one of our upcoming regionals. There are many games set up for novice and intermediate players, and a chance to share with people from across the country, and sometimes from around the world.

Members of Unit 524 who collected some red or gold points in Monterey during the 7-day event included:

Sue Comporato	Jim Craig	Tony Glynne
Ivan Godard	Dave Jackson	Ken Johnson (22.07)
Graham Kelly (20.41)	Joanne & Vinny McLaughlin	Skip Pack
Elsie Shaw	Win Stone	And friend of the Unit, Betsy Wagner

Highlights included:

- Tuesday Top-flight Pairs: Ken Johnson & Graham Kelly FOURTH in Flight X
- Wednesday IMP Pairs: Ken Johnson & Dave Jackson FIRST in X, FIFTH Overall
- Wednesday Mid-flight Pairs: Jim Craig & Graham Kelly THIRD Overall

Some pretty impressive results!



RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Congratulations to all who have been documented as advancing since our last publication!

Julia Meader – Junior Master (5)

Steve Greenberg - Club Master (20)

Richard Ross – Sectional Master (50)

Well done to all!

MONTHLY UNIT GAME

The monthly Unit Game is the third Sunday of the month. The Unit 524 has invited players from all Units to come join us for the Unit game in Morgan Hill, especially those Units who have lost playing space and are short on face-to-face games. Upcoming Unit games are on February 18, March 17 (special Lunch & Learn game with early start time, and wear your sharpest green outfit), and April 21.

*The **December** Unit Game Open Section winners:*

North-South – Win Stone & Jonna Robinson (65.0%)

East-West – Margot Kakalec & Dave Jackson (58.5%)

0-499 Section winners:

Flight A – Lesley Waltner & Larry Zito

Flight B – Marianne & Brenda Wucherpennig

Flight C – Helen & Ed Shaw

*The **January** Unit Game Open Section winners:*

North-South – Win Stone & Jonna Robinson (60.4%)

East-West – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin (65.8%)

0-499 Section winners:

Overall A – Lucy Grisetti & Carolyn Wilson (68.3%)

Overall B – George Bitner & Maria Schalk

Overall C – Janet Bernhardt & Geff Kinn



CLUB GAMES

The **Tuesday** game in **Hollister** (Buena Vista Bridge Club) is held at 11:00 am at Dunne Park. This small game is generally just 2-3 tables but is open to all. Notable results over the past two months:

- Jan. 9 Jim Craig & Win Stone (75%)
- Jan. 16 Liega & Patrick Arnett (60%)
- Jan. 23 Liega & Patrick Arnett (74%)
- Jan. 30 Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor (65%)

The **Thursday** game in **Gilroy** (Stone's Game) is at the Senior Center across from City Hall and adjacent to the Police Station, with a brief lesson at 10 am followed by play. Most weeks there is an Open section of 5 tables and a 499er section of 6-8 tables.

Open Section:

- Jan. 11 N/S – Ken Johnson & Graham Kelly (68%)
E/W – Patrick Arnett & Don McCown
- Jan. 18 N/S – Jonna Robinson & Mary Legrand
E/W – Mark Moore & Norm Dow (65%)
- Jan. 25 A - Jonna Robinson & Win Stone (64.6%)
B – Skip Pack & Ivan Godard
- Feb. 1 A – Vinny McLoughlin & Ken Johnson (63.5%)
B – Norm Dow & Chuck Wilson
- Feb. 8 A – Dave Jackson & Diana Dragt (61%)
B – Carol Nicoletti & Suzanne Proctor

499er Section

- Jan. 11 A – Lesley Waltner & Matt Rode (68%)
B – Anna Gervacio & Marianne Wucherpennig
C – Ed Shaw & Nancy Samson



D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

- Jan. 18 N/S – Lesley Waltner & Matt Rode (57%)
E/W – Dennis Rubida & Barbara Earley (57%)
- Jan. 25 A & B – Pat Kelly & Ernestine Hicks (63%)
C – Patricia Jackson & Julie Burkhart
- Feb. 1 A & B – Larry Zito & Ivan Goddard (64%)
C – Helen & Ed Shaw
- Feb. 8 A – Anna Gervacio & Elsie Shaw (71.9%)
B & C – Helen & Ed Shaw

LOCAL ONLINE GAME

Win Stone, who operates the Thursday game at the Gilroy Senior Center, also hosts Bridge Base (BBO) online games, Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 1:25 pm local time. Turnout has risen slightly lately with the addition of players from outside the Unit, and in some cases from all over the world, on an apparently random basis. But generally, it is made up of Unit 524 members and their friends. Usually, 3 to 7 tables of friendly competitors each day. Look for "Stones Game" at 1:25 PST on BBO. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.





Marin By Melanie Haddad (508)



Welcome New Unit Members! Unit 508 is excited to welcome Susan Huberty, Amy Jacobs, Steve Larson, Whitney O'Neill, Carolyn Scarola, and Jeralyn Seiling. Welcome all! We look forward to meeting you at our live bridge games.

Rank Advancements! Congratulations go to:

Junior Master:

Patrica Benton

Patricia Salber

Club Master:

Brian Asher

Sectional Master:

Deborah Sagues

Christine Telischak

Regional Master:

Cynthia Peterson

NABC Master:

Peter Sorensen

Advanced NABC Master:

Debra Bellings-Kee

Jim Oser

Silver Life Master:

Nancy Kuhn

Gold Life Master:

Andrea Ventris

Bridge Workshop with Robert Todd!

Unit 508 is thrilled to be holding its first live bridge seminar since the pandemic. We could not think of better way to start than with a Bridge Workshop presented by Robert Todd!

This is a rare Bay Area teaching appearance for Robert and a great opportunity to learn from one of the most exciting bridge teachers working today. Instead of teaching endless conventions, Robert concentrates on how to think, evaluate, and strategize at the bridge table. His concepts will open up new worlds for highly skilled players and novices alike.

The workshop will take place on Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 10 am – 2 pm. A light lunch will be provided. Robert will cover:

Competitive Bidding:

- Competing when the opponents open the bidding
- Competing when partner opens the bidding



- When to stop; when to double

Tune up for Team Games

- Scoring Strategy - IMPs v MPs
- When and how much you should bid (taking vulnerability into account)
- When to sacrifice over their game contracts
- Caution about slam bidding

This is perfect timing to help you prepare for the Marin Sectional coming up in April (and the D21 Regional in Sacramento in May)! Get your teams together now, attend the workshop to hone your strategy, and go for the win at the Sectional.

For more information and to register for the workshop, click [HERE](#).

Marin Sectional – April 13 & 14! Celebrity Speaker!

Our Sectional takes place on April 13 & 14. We have great range of events for all players. And a celebrity speaker! Grand Life Master Mitch Dunitz will give a free lecture on How To Improve Your Bidding In Competition before the Saturday afternoon session. Mitch will answer questions on the tournament hands as well. Come, ask questions, and learn how and why an expert does what he does at the bridge table!

Mitch Dunitz, who was profiled in the [January 2024 Bridge Bulletin](#), has over 30,000 masterpoints. He has lectured at bridge tournaments and mentored aspiring players for several years. He is at the forefront of the effort to bring young people to the game.

Mark your calendars now!

Marin Unit Games!

The next Unit game is on Sunday, February 25. In addition to the Open game, there will be a 499er game (if enough attendance). We'd love to see you there! Any questions or for help with partners, please contact our Unit Game Director: Peggy Strong, strongpeggy100@gmail.com or 415-299-7511.

Our Unit games are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (unless there is a conflict with a local tournament). The game starts at 1 pm and is held at the Terra Linda Community Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd., San Rafael, CA 94903. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.

For information on all games in our Unit, please visit our website: [Marin Unit 508](#).



Amazing Games! Congratulations to all the Unit 508 winners of the 2023 Mini McKenney, Ace of Clubs and Virtual Ace of Clubs Awards! Click on the links below to see all the winners.

[2023 Mini-McKenney Awards](#)

[2023 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards](#)

[2023 Ace of Virtual Clubs Awards](#)

If you have an amazing game or hand or anecdote or anything else you'd like to share with the Unit, please email me at marinunit508@gmail.com. If you are not receiving our weekly email Blast which is full of Unit news, please subscribe [HERE](#).

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



The unit was pleased to announce that Galen Neptune – its only member whose mailing address is in Alaska – became a Silver Life Master in December. This achievement is the result of some very good bridge by Galen in the local open pairs games. Also, two newer players from Judy Remmers's beginning group – Mike and Rose Epting – became Club Masters. This husband-and-wife pair have come a long way since they were raw beginners, and the unit congratulates their success!

Modesto players did well at the Monterey Clambake Regional in January. Bruce Ruskin won the prestigious unlimited Open Pairs event on Friday while playing with his favorite out-of-town partner, Alan DeSerpa of Arizona. Lee Maddocks and his team of out-of-town players won two KO events, one on Friday and the other on Saturday. Also, Lorraine Bocks and John Rollin won over 12 gold points playing in KO events. Way to go players!

There were a total of three STAC games in the unit in December. Top scores were 64.81% by Bruce Ruskin/Lee Maddocks, 61.11% by Libby Longstreth/Jeanne Russo, and 60.65% by Sharon Cole/Jaime Hamilton. B players dominated the points, with Libby Longstreth first with 3.43, Jeanne Russo second at 3.10, and Sharon Cole third with 2.97. In A, Bruce and Lee won led with 2.92, with Ralph Jungwirth second, and John Rollin third. In C, Jaime Hamilton was first, with Jim Page second, and Alex Limbach third, while Marcia Laird earned an honorable mention.

Judy Remmers's group had a total of two games: Patricia Heckendorf/Marilyn Talent had a 61.67% game to lead all pairs in December, while Robin Johnson/Ken White led in the EW direction. In January, Patricia Heckendorf/Sharon Schroeder were first with 61%. Following them were Dana Dempsey/Jane Griffith and next were Nancy Lilly/Sue Winter. We now have a new player in the club. Zhilim Lin, a neighbor of Judy's played in Canada years ago and has now renewed his membership. He and Judy won points together when he played at the club for the first time on January 27.



There were six full tables for the Saturday Invitational Christmas Party event on December 16. The food was varied and delicious and included an Indian dish cooked by Sheila Wani, who is not eligible to play in the game, but stayed to kibitz. So many people donated prizes that everyone who played was able to walk away with at least one prize. Debbie Greenberg/Debbie DeZarn of Stockton won the bidding contest with a score of 41 (about 80% of the highest possible).

When the bridge was over, Judy Remmers and Cindy Rodgers were first with a 65.83% game. The two Debbies came in second with a 63.75% game. First in B were Sharon Cole/Matt Weston-Dawkes, with Mike and Rose Epting winning the six-pair C group, while Terry Sciabica/Jeff Gaudio were in second place in C.

In the final Invitational game of the month, Sharon and Jaime won with a 73.15% effort. Tom Au/Joe Castiglione were first in both C and B, and fourth in A.

Barbara and Jim Page dominated the January Unit game with a 61% effort, finishing first in all categories. Second were Sheila Wani/Libby Longstreth, Ralph Jungwirth/Trelle Uhl were third, with Roger Smith/Judy Remmers fourth.

January was a good month for the invitational game, with four events that averaged 5.5 tables. Cindy Rodgers led the top players in points, with Galen Neptune second, and Barbara Page third. In the C stratum, Tom Au was first, Jim Page second, and tying for third were Mike and Rose Epting. It is easy to see how the Eptings became Club Masters.

The highest score in the invitational game was a 68% by Cindy and Galen. This same pair then had a 65% effort, with Judy and Libby coming in third with 63%.

All the highest scores in the open game came in January. Lee and Bruce had a very, nice 72.69% game, while Ralph Jungwirth/Trelle Uhl came in second with 69.79%, barely edging Sharon Cole/Pam Mayne at 69.64%.

Libby Longstreth – a B player – won the most points in the two months, finishing with 14.15. In second place overall was another B player – Cindy Rodgers with 13.70. Third in B and fifth overall was Galen Neptune with 11.87. In A, Bruce Ruskin barely edged Lee Maddocks for first 12.24 to 12.19, while Ray Adams just managed to slide past Ralph Jungwirth for third place 10.86 to 10.82. The top C players were Jaime Hamilton with 5.78, edging by Jim Page who had 5.54, with Tom Au third at 4.80, with Matt-Weston-Dawkes earning an honorable mention with 3.54.

So that's the news for the last month of 2023 and the first month in 2024 in the Modesto Unit. There will be more news in another two months.



Monterey By Mary Block (530)

The Monterey Bridge club is planning a Sectional May 25-26th at our Bridge Center in Monterey. It will be limited to 50 pairs or 25 tables and pre-registration is required. The chairperson is Ann Ahmadi and we encourage players to attend. More information will be provided.

The monthly Unit Games are continuing to be popular with the membership and a valuable source of income for the Unit. They are generally held on the second Sunday of the month at the Bridge Center. Check the online calendar at the website below.

We regret having to report on the passing of two unit members, Conrad Ege and Marie Louie.

Welcome to new members Glyn Jones, Mary Burns, Ed Shaw, and Claudia Vierneisel.

Congratulations to new Club Master Barbara Santry. Dixie Eisenhower and Pat Peabody are now Junior Masters. Congratulations to Maja for becoming a Ruby Life Master. And special congratulations to G Vankatesh for reaching the status of Gold Life Master.

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/montereyunit530. The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is montereybridgeeducation.org.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Thomas Sheahan (512)

Good news! We're slowly but surely getting more tables in play in our weekly games. The Monday and Wednesday games in Sonoma directed by George Gordon are having 10-12 tables, the Napa game is getting 8-9 and the Tuesday 0-499 game now usually has 7-9 tables up from 4-5 about a year ago. Tony Jackson has done a wonderful job directing and teaching in that game not to mention the goodies he brings every week. A lot of newer players are joining that game which we really need. Thank you, Tony! If you're not in our unit, come up and enjoy a game in our friendly atmosphere and then treat yourself to a great meal in the Wine Country.



Monday/Wednesday games in Sonoma start at 11:30 and Clyde Smith's Friday game in Napa starts at 12:45. Clyde guarantees a partner if you don't have one and a lot of times it will be him as a partner which almost always guarantees you'll get Master Points. The Tuesday non Life Master game starts at noon. Sonoma games are held at the Sonoma Moose Lodge and the Napa game is at the Senior Center on Jefferson St. Sue Vogtlin also has a Thursday morning game in Rio Vista. Congratulations to Sue for her 11 Gold points earned in the Monterey Regional in her first-place finish in an open bracketed teams event.

The results of the annual Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards are in and here are your winners:

Ace of Clubs:

0-5 Stephanie Hamilton, 5-20 Fern Menzildjian, 20-50 Cynthia Cope, 50-100 Bob Bruce, 100-200 Pat and Sue McGrath, 200-300 Barry Walner, 300-500 Don Moore, 500-1000 Lynn Dondero, 1000-1500 Richard Tebay, 1500-2500 Sue Vogtlin, 2500-3000 Clyde Smith, 3500-5000 Joanne Wegsten, 5000-7500 Tom Jacobson and 7500-10000 Sigrid Price (Who I am pleased to report is doing very well recovering from her medical issue).

Mini McKenney: the same winners as in the Ace of Clubs with these exceptions.

0-5 David Mendel, 20-50 Howard Bye-Torre, 200-300 Cynthia Crawford, 500-1000 Carol Fraser, 2500-3000 Dan Harp, and 3500-5000 Jeffery Ferro.

Congratulations to Ed Houk who recently achieved the rank of Bronze Life Master!

The Sonoma Club has a new Board of Directors. Rick Davis won the Presidency in a landslide vote succeeding Joanne Wegsten who did a wonderful job. Other members include Victoria Bonnington, John Coulston, Barbara Lemme, Sheila Malinowski, Tom Sheahan and Barry Walner who does a great job of keeping track of our dollars as treasurer.

Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)

As we ease into the new year, Palo Alto Unit 503 is happy to share the latest happenings within our vibrant bridge community. Our new president, Liz Koh, welcomed 2024 with enthusiasm and outlined the Board's commitment to ensuring the financial well-being of our unit by enhancing bridge activities and community engagement. Liz, who joined our community just two and a half years ago, exemplifies the spirit of unity among both new and longstanding members contributing meaningfully to our unit.

Here's a recap of the past two months and a glimpse of what's to come:



DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

On December 1-3 the Unit held an Open and NLM Sectional. This three-day event provided players of all levels the opportunity to play good competitive bridge and earn silver masterpoints.

On December 10, among festive decorations and attire (featuring an array of "ugly holiday sweaters"), players enjoyed delicious food, fun prizes, and competitive bridge at our annual Holiday Party. The party was on the final day of STaC week which featured a week full of F2F bridge and lots of colored points. In lieu of game fees, the Unit collected donations to Community Services Agency (CSA) and Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.



At the Holiday Party Unit president David Merenbach and Dan Thatte presented Marc Cervellino the Unit's 2023 Service Award. Marc received the award for his long and outstanding service to the Unit as a Board member and as Treasurer for both the Unit and the Peninsula Bridge Education Foundation. He has chaired more than six sectionals at the Club including co-chairing the last two Firecrackers. Thank you for all that you do for us Marc and congratulations!



And a shout out to Stephanie Youngquist, Lynn Giusti, Liz Koh, and Marc Cervellino for organizing and pulling off this wonderful holiday event.

In the fall of 2023, Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY) revived its in-person programs including Casual Fridays, Pizza Party Tournaments, and a new Winter Camp with much success at our Bridge Center. In December they welcomed over 40 young players, including 8 returning players and 10 former SiVY juniors who have become volunteers. All credit goes to the 22 volunteers (list in SiVY's January newsletter),



comprising a mix of new blood and experienced veterans, parents, and youth.

SiVY will be hosting a Lunar New Year Pizza Party on Saturday February 10th for youth players at the Bridge Center: See more [here](#).

Our Unit made a strong showing at the Monterey Regional. Unit 503 member Debbie Rosenberg led all 883 tournament players in masterpoints earned with other outstanding results among our members:

Debbie Rosenberg, 143mps – Tournament Leader!

Ming Sheng, 87mps

Edward Zuckerberg, 86mps

Michael Xu, 69mps

Vinita Gupta, 56mps

Brenda Hatton, 47mps

Ying Liu, 41mps

Congratulations also to the following Unit 503 members who placed in the D21 NAP finals also held at the Monterey Regional: Good luck in Louisville!

- Unit 503 member Ronald Powell and his partner Stephen Tu came in 2nd in the Open Flight A Pairs.
- Unit 503 members Niraj Jain and Rajeev Jog came in 3rd in the Flight B Pairs.
- Unit 503 member Maggie Zhao and her partner Henry Zhang came in 3rd in Flight C Pairs.

Moving on to January events, World Champion Amber Lin gave a Zoom webinar as part of our Celebrity Lecture Series on "Declarer Play in Suit Contracts". It was well received by the 64 participants. Our volunteer, Kathy Wheeler, is planning more celebrity lectures throughout 2024 – stay tuned.

Mondays at the Bridge Center will become your favorite days! If ever there was a reason to come to the club to play F2F bridge, now is the time to join us on Mondays: On Monday February 5 and March 4 we are holding one-session Non Life Master Sectional tournaments, awarding 100% silver masterpoints. NLMs with fewer than 750 masterpoints are eligible to play. See: [NLM 1-session sectionals](#) Sign up: [Unit503 SignUp](#).

On Mondays, February 12 and March 11, Unit 503 is hosting Swiss Team club games at the Bridge Center at 10:30AM. Put a team together or contact the Unit for



partnerships and practice for the upcoming GNTs! See [Swiss Team games](#) and Sign up: [Unit503 SignUp](#).

On Monday, March 18 the Bridge Center will be festooned in green with green goodies for all. Come join our game and celebrate St. Pat's with us! Wear green to participate in the prize drawing!

Grand National Teams (GNT) preliminary rounds are now open for registration. Please sign up your team before March 1 (March 29 for Flight B). Details are on District 21's website: D21acbl.org.

Kathy Harper's Spring classes at the Bridge Center start in March: See details: [Bridge classes](#).

Attention Newer Players: we have 0-20 masterpoint games at the Bridge Center on Tuesdays at 10:30AM and Wednesday evenings at 6:45PM. Gain experience and improve your game in a relaxed club game environment. Sign up: [Unit503 SignUp](#).

We want to thank our new Volunteer Chair, Gerry MacDonald (geraldinem@aol.com) who has been busy recruiting new volunteers. There are many ways to get involved--help with upcoming events (such as our St. Pat's club game), marketing and publicity, coordinating our free lecture series, and organizing a bridge tournament. We greatly appreciate all the help we receive from our members.

Congratulations to the following Unit 503 members who achieved a new ACBL Rank in December:

Junior Master: Jeannie C Lowry, Irene P Shelchuk

Club Master: Martin Michelsen

Bronze Life Master: Judy Vadasz

Gold Life Master: Merle Orelove

Diamond Life Master: Roger A Passal

And congratulations to the following Unit 503 members who achieved a new ACBL Rank in January:

Junior Master: Myn Demmon, Bruce P Douglas, Karen Gibson, Carl A Thomsen.

Regional Master: Dimitry Goder, Debra Willrett.

NABC Master: Clover U Worland.

Life Master: Anne C Ward, Nick Ward.

Gold Life Master: Yu Chang.



Finally, a warm welcome to our new Unit 503 members: Karen Douglas and Jennifer Lu (as of December) and Solal Afota, Terry Demmon, and Patricia Kantor (as of January).

As you can see, the Palo Alto Unit 503 has continued to have a vibrant presence in the bridge community. We thank all of our members and guests who have supported the club and continue to make this a community that we can all be a part of.

Reno By Martha Hildreth & Sandra Haslem (473)

2023 Wrap Up: New Games,
New Members and Award Winners

The Unit 473 Mathewson Bridge Center ended the year with a cheerful holiday party with good food and drink, and general conviviality. There was quite a crowd – not surprising since the club grew significantly in 2023. Our toy drive piled up gifts under the tree – thank you to the organizers!



The club had a remarkable increase in tables during 2023: 53.4 % more tables than in 2022. Part of the reason is more games, limited games in particular. Our weekly 299er game had faded away until two club members, Tam Gandert and Shannon Dressel, started recruiting for the game, registering, and matching partners. Now there is regularly eight tables

per week. A weekly 49er game was also added for our many beginning players. Next month, a 99er game will begin. These three limited games are scheduled concurrently with open games.

Our table increase was also driven by overall membership gains. In 2023 membership increased by 9.15%, top in the district and 10th in the ACBL. The driving force behind these gains is the Reno Bridge Academy and its teachers. There is a great deal that can be said about the Academy and its students—more on this to come in the next newsletter.

Mini-McKenney, Ace of Clubs, and Virtual Ace of Clubs awards for our unit have



been tallied for 2023. The results are below.

The Ace of Clubs Award is made to unit players, one per ranking level, who earn the most master points during the year in sanctioned face-to-face games. Only black points are counted; STaC and other special games are excluded. The new Virtual Ace of Clubs Award, also awarded one per ranking level, is based upon points earned in the year in sanctioned virtual club (VACB) games.

The Mini-McKenney is awarded to unit players, one per ranking level, who earned the most total master points in sanctioned club games and tournaments during the previous year, excluding points earned in on-line games.

Note: Ranks are determined by the point status at the start of the year. Also the awards are not mutually exclusive; it's possible to win in more than one category in a given year.

Congratulations to the Unit 473 Mathewson Bridge Center 2023 "Mini-McKenney Ace of Clubs and Virtual Ace of Clubs winners!"

	1st Place WINNERS		
Starting MP Bracket	Ace of Clubs	Mini-McKenney	Ace of Virtual Clubs
0-5	Paul Lane	Paul Lane	Kay O'Brien
5-20	Priscilla Bender	Tam Gandert	Timothy Chaney
20-50	Michael Robinson	Michael Robinson	Shannon Dressel
50-100	Maryam Jabbari	Maryam Jabbari	Rick Wasson
100-200	Jerry Johnson	Martha Hildreth	Nancy Wood
200-300	Patrick Campbell	Rolando Grijalva	Leigh Zerboni
300-500	Stella Marino Russell	Elaine Simkins	Elaine Simkins
500-1000	Barbara Mickle	Barbara Mickle	Barbara Mickle
1000-1500	Don Rogers	Don Rogers	Catherine Johnson
1500-2500	Donald Parsons	Donald Parsons	Lars Bruun-Anderson





2500-3500	Kathy Lane	Kathy Lane	Satish Gupta
3500-5000	Virginia Kellermeyer	Virginia Kellermeyer	Lin Goldstein
5000-7500	Gilbert Ramirez	Gilbert Ramirez	Gilbert Ramirez
7500-10000	Charlotte Falk	Charlotte Falk	N/A

For more detail on our Unit 473 results for these awards, including those who placed below the top, and to see how our Members and others playing at our Club fared in the top 25 of District 21, log into your MyACBL and click on District/Unit races.

Sacramento By Jim Coke (505)

I know this is short notice, but Unit 505 is holding their Winter Sectional this weekend, February 15th through the 18th. We'll hold a single session invitational game on the 15th, a team game on the 16th and open pairs on the 17th and 18th.

On a sad note, we have to report the passing of one of our most beloved members. Teri Smoot passed away on January the 17th. This one is a double blow for me because Teri was a stalwart in our bridge community and a friend, and we played together frequently - I was fortunate to play with her twice in December. We knew Teri had lost a lot of weight recently, but I was surprised to get a phone call from Mary Ose on Christmas Eve asking me to take Teri to the emergency room. I did and spent Christmas Eve with Teri in the ER. Shortly after, we learned the diagnosis was cancer and that it was progressing very rapidly. Mary, Ti Davis, and I were able to see Teri the day before she passed.

Teri was the main driver behind the Sacramento Area Virtual Club which was the online club that we formed to support our brick and mortar clubs - Sacramento Bridge Center, Folsom Bridge Center, and Foothill Duplicate Bridge Club. She called me up as President of the Unit wanting to set up the virtual club on BBO, but would I please take care of getting the arrangements made with club owners and the financials so that became my part of the project. She took care of setting up everything with BBO, recruited and trained directors on online directing and maintained player lists as required by ACBL. The SAVC saved both SBC and Foothill DBC. I have had numerous partners in business relationships, and she was one of the two best, but I can't decide who was number one because the other one was phenomenal too!

We hope you can join us at Teri's Celebration of Life.





San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



We welcome members who are new or have transferred to our Unit:

Dr. Akshay Dalal, Laurel Dawson, Betsy Rosenthal, Virginia Stephenson, Arthur Van Hoff.

Congratulations to everyone who recently achieved a new rank achievement:

Junior Master

Jane Bagley

Joanne Engelhardt

Lynn Pieron

Eleanor Young

Sectional Masters

Janice Carter

Pat McCombs

NABC Master

Debra Martinez

Advanced NABC Master

Mike Halliday

Life Master

Gloria Halliday

Gold Life Master

Art Quey

The new year brings some new faces to our Board. We welcome the following Board Members and wish them luck fulfilling their positions:

Janice Carter, President

Lauren Rosen, Vice President & Mentor-Mentee Program

Rita Armstrong, Treasurer

Carl Ebeling, Secretary

Kai Eckert, Unit Game Coordinator

Barbara Lewis, Membership

Becca Simmons, Marketing

Carol Lashman, Non Life Masters Sectionals

Kit Morse, Director



Danna Sorensen, Past President

We're excited about adding more in person bridge to our regular calendar. For those new to or returning to bridge, Jennifer Kuhn will launch the weekly EasyBridge 1 series on Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00am, at The Villa in San Mateo starting with a free introductory class on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Contact Jenny at jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com to register.

Jennifer will also host a weekly open game in person on Wednesdays at 6:30 at the Villa, starting on February 14.

We hosted lunch and our first Unit Game of the year on January 13th. There were 8 tables in the open section and 5.5 tables in the limited section. Philip and Jenny Kuhn took first place in N/S and Aster Woo and Bruce Luttrell took first place in E/W. In the limited section, Cynthia Wener and Nancy Zorfas took first in N/S. Nancy Hoeck and Lauren Rosen took first place in E/W.

Our next three monthly Unit games are on February 24 (where we will kick off our 2024 Longest Day fundraising efforts), March 30, and April 13. In May, we'll hold an NLM Sectional on May 4.

We held our first Mentor/Mentee game of the year on BBO on Thursday, January 25th. Thanks to the Mentors who contributed their time and knowledge, we were able to fill eight tables. First overall and first in N/S were Jim Van Ness and Ken Hoeck with a 65.41% game. They were followed closely by Pete Goldsmith and Janice Carter with a 65.01% game. Mark Sorenson and Mili Delbecq claimed first in E/W with a 59.59% game.

Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)



January Regional at Monterey. Jan 2 - 9

The Santa Cruz Bridge Club members always look forward to January and the Regional held in Monterey, Ca. This year, many of our members attended, met up with friends and acquaintances, and had a great time overall. Thirty Members earned RED and GOLD points. Congratulations to all of them.



Member Accomplishments

Dec 2023 through Feb 1st 2024

New Junior Masters:

Patti Bostard
Catherine Foy
Mary Graves
Kathy Shortly

New Regional Masters:

Leslie Davidson
Jim Miller

New Ruby Life Master:

Mark Wainer

70% games November 28 through Jan 31, 2024

Dec 27th Wed eve Open: Leslie Davidson - Linda Downing 71.88%

The Newcomer Game has become increasingly popular. Starting, February games will be held bi-monthly. AND Our Club games are growing:

Weekly F2F games. Add More fun with face to face...

- MONDAY NIGHT - 6:00 P.M. 499er game
- TUESDAY DAY - 10:00 A.M. OPEN game
- ***TUESDAY EVENING BBO*** - 6:30 P.M.
- Followed by an 8:30 Wednesday Morning Free hand review with Ken Llacera
- WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS 6:00 P.M. evening open game.
- FRIDAY DAY - 10:00 A.M. OPEN game
- THURSDAY - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month MENTOR MENTEE GAMES. 10:00 A.M.
- SUNDAY Brunch (optional) begins at 11:15 and 12:00 Open game on the last Sunday of the month. Enjoy an amazing brunch menu prepared by Chef Heather MacGregor and a game with friends.





Check our website calendar for updates at santacruzbridge.org.

FEB 22nd the SCBC is introducing a **Swiss Team Game!** Member teams with highest point totals will be paired with the teams with the lowest point totals. We look forward to this being so successful, it will be held monthly.



Our unit is looking forward to our SANTA CRUZ Rising Stars Limited/750* Sectional, March 9 & 10, 2024

Mid-County Senior Center

829 Bay Avenue

Capitola, CA 95010

Info: santacruzbridge.org

Leslie Davidson – chair, scruzdavidson@gmail.com

John Wesolowski – partnerships wesocruz@comcast.net

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)



December 2023 (Dec 10 - Feb 10)

We're getting ready for our Spring Sectional, March 2 and 3, in Petaluma. The green hills of Sonoma County await you. Little lambs are traipsing after their mothers, calves are eating the beautiful green grass in the hills, and Unit 509 bridge players are planning what treat to bring to the Petaluma Community Center to share with visiting bridge enthusiasts. Details are at web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2024/03/2403307.

We celebrated our annual Holiday Party December 10. We had a great lunch from Lombardi's — barbecued chicken, potato salad, caesar salad, and a medley of vegetables. Our dessert was a table full of delicious cookies, bars, and other treats made by talented members of the unit.





Unit 509 Holiday Party



Our Holiday STAC game had 2 sections. In the 9 table Open section, 1st overall and 1st in A and B N/S were Roy Redlich and Hans Van Boldrik, while E/W 1st in A were Larry Borsian and Jackie Ortiz, and 1st in B were Ronald Welch and Ron Chestnut. In the 7 table 750/500/200 section, 1st in A and B N/S and 1st overall were Katherine Schram and Kim Morris, 1st in C N/S were Steve Carey and Donna Edwards, while E/W Dana Murphy and Kathy Juarez were 1st in A, and Joni Conner and Jeremy Brott were 1st in B and C.

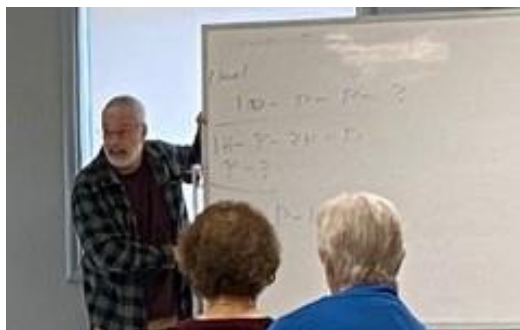
Unit 509 players made quite a showing in Monterey this year. Thirty-eight of our players placed in the overalls according to Bridge Finesse. These were Abbe Cohen, Andrea Johnson, Bob Klein, Brian Sullivan, Dana Murphy, Denis Racine, Elizabeth

Strasen, Evelyn Holtz, Fred Wiele, Gerald Besses, Gloria Hersch, Helene Gay, James Reed, Jane De Briyn, Jerry Besses, Jiang Gu, John Shribbs, Jonathan Cohen, Judy Duport, Kate Hill, Katherine Schram, Kathy Venton, Larry Spanier, Laurie Vree, Lynn Blumenthal, Maxine Reagh, Nancy Gunn, Nancy Rude, Patricia Dunbar, Patricia Hertz, Patricia Shribbs, Peter Lit, Shelly Dunietz, Sigrid Price, Stacie Bowman, Stephanie Poley, Tony Jackson, and Wendy Merget. Gloria Hersch earned enough gold to earn her Life Master playing with Fred Wiele, a newcomer to bridge in the ACBL, who had 0 points!



The biggest winner in Monterey from our unit wasn't a Grand Life Master. It was James Reed, a good player with under 1500 masterpoints, who won a total of 36.41 points. James won gold in 5 events with 3 different partners. Wow.





One of the things I think is very special about Unit 509 is that in addition to our 2 sectionals, and our Holiday Party, we have a special game every month preceded by a lesson and a free luncheon. The lesson on January 21 about Balancing was presented by Tony Jackson. One of our members said "Tony Jackson presented an excellent and convincing lesson on balancing that is sure to get many of us more timid bidders in the game. He demonstrated and explained when to and when not to balance, how to balance with a 1NT bid, balancing doubles and much more."

After the lesson we were treated to a completely delicious and plentiful luncheon of chicken pasta salad, zucchini fritters, green salad and bread pudding, all made by Jackie Ortiz.



Thirteen tables played in the Unit Game. The big winners were Mark Hersko and Larry Spanier, 1st N/S, with 67.80%, winning 3.35 masterpoints. Sitting E/W, 2nd over-all were Jerry Besses and Joanne Wegsten with 62.65%. Sitting E/W, Laurie Vree and Jeremy Brott were 1st in B and C.

Sitting N/S, Carol Morse and Andy Andrews were first in B, and Charlene Stone and Jean O'Donnell were first in C.

Some of you know that we have a new club in Santa Rosa run by our unit called Finley 509. The club held its first Pro-Am game, party is more like it, on January 31. In addition to a bountiful snack table, the board member/club manager, Maxine Reagh, presented 4 door prizes. Here's a photo of one of the lucky winners, Wendy Merget.





games. Patricia Hertz and Jacqueline Ortiz scored 70.24% at Finley 509 on January 10.

The game had 9 tables. Congratulations go to Nancy Gunn and Jeff Sacher, a Pro-Am team, who came in first NS with 64.81%, and to Carol Morse and Andy Andrews, an Am-Am team who won 1st E/W with 60.65%.

Since our last newsletter, we had a few 70%+



We had a lot of great games on BBO since December 10. Mark Hersko had 4 big Speedball games: he and Jackie Ortiz scored 72.3%, 2nd out of 140 pairs, on December 2; he and Cecelia Zachar scored 76.29%, 1st out of 138 pairs, on December 18; he and Mary Omodt scored 71.03%, 3rd out of 106 pairs, on December 19; and he and Cecelia Zachar scored 73.07%, 2nd out of 154 Pairs, on January 29.

Congratulations to our players who advanced in rank. James Wallace is our new NABC Master; Gloria Hersh, our newest Life Master; Dana Murphy and James Oswald, our new Bronze Life Masters; and Elizabeth Strasen, our newest Silver Life Master.

Sadly, we've lost 2 players since December 10. We regret the passing of Robert Bennett and Roy Burnham. May they rest in peace.

Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



My last Unit 507 column was completed exactly eight weeks ago. We've had two Unit Board meetings since then, and our Unit holiday party, which this holiday season was deferred to January 20, 2024.

Due to a surplus in the Unit's account, the Board decided to make the holiday party pairs game free to all Unit members, and, during the event, Board members voted to make it free to nonunit members as well. Preceding the game was lunch. The Board provided different barbequed meats, and unit members, as usual, provided a tasty assortment of potluck dishes and desserts. There were 13 tables in the open pairs game and three in the 499er section. First overall were Diane & Lynn Shannon, with Norman Marks & Qing Lu first in the other direction and first in stratification B. Mich Ravera & David Sisson were first in the C strat and second in their direction. Pamela Meckenstock & Janet Meagher were first in the limited game with Gary Levinson & Richard Lordan first in the remaining strat.

Unit members have attended three regionals since my last column. At the Palm Springs regional, first in team brackets were Jim Liu (twice) and Stacie Bowman. Stacie



also had a strat top in midflight pairs. Pamela Meckenstock & Barbara Roupe had section tops (twice) in Gold Rush pairs.

Most of the action was at the nearby Monterey regional. In team events, Arthur Zhou's team won a knockout. First in their respective team brackets were: Anne Wilson & Joanne Cornbleet; Lynn Shannon & John Miller; Philip Freiberger; Michael Fleisher & Jung Hu; Frank Xie; Carolyn Drozdiak; and Kumar Ramaiyer.

In pair events, Xin Ge won the premier barometer pairs event and Richard Reitman was in second. Philip Freiberger won a midflight pairs event. Daniela Tone had a strat top in the fast pairs. Section tops went to Jack Version; Annette Powers; Anne Wilson & Joanne Cornbleet; John Hodges; Frank Xie; Barry Alhadeff & Gary Effren; and Rajeev Gupta & Manoj Thawani.

Barbara & Bruce Luttrell had an enriching time at the Hawaii regional. They were on a winning knockout team, on another winning bracketed team, and they had a section top in an open pairs game, placing second overall. Carolyn Drozdiak's team was also first in their bracket.

In an online regional, Prabhat Mishra & Bharat Kamdar had a section top in a Gold Rush pairs.

Cadir Lee had a section top in an open pairs game at the San Francisco sectional.

In the District 21 North American Pairs finals, which were held during the Monterey regional, Yanong Han & T-C Yang were first in flight A; Kayden Ge was first in flight B; and Milind Girkar & Shailesh Sampat were first in flight C; for a clean sweep of the finals by Unit 507.

Congratulations to our Unit's newest Masters: Betty Russell (Junior); Michele Liu (Advanced NABC); Jay Baudler (Ruby); and Kathy Keener (Gold).

Our Unit is holding its spring sectional at the Palo Alto Bridge Center on April 26 through 28. You can find the flyer on our website at sjbridge.org.

Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



This is being written on a day of howling winds, relentless rain, and sprinkled power outages. But there was a brief period of blue sky and sun which immediately resulted in optimism that things would get better. It reminds me of those days when some of us say we are "going to quit playing bridge" after a particularly bad hand or session, but we keep coming back. At least, I hope all of you do because ACBL has assigned each Unit a huge responsibility to grow their membership numbers by 5% effective April 1, 2024.



Let's celebrate our current members beginning with rank advancements. Paula Monroe reached Regional Master thanks to winning a December Royal STaC game. Pam Elliot had already become a Bronze Life Master in December.

Event winners in Monterey were the team of Mike and Mary Wells, Bill Mitchell and Sue Voglin, in Open Bracketed Teams 4. By placing 2nd in the A Division of the North American Pairs qualifier, Stephen Tu of Stockton and his partner, Ron Powell will be representing District 21 at the March NABC in Louisville. Many others in the Mountain and Stockton clubs earned red and gold points at the Monterey Clambake Regional and photos are on the Unit Website.

I was sad to learn of the passing of Shirley Burns, a pre-pandemic regular player at the Stockton Club with her husband Mike or various women friends. Her Celebration of Life will be April 7 in Lodi at the English Oaks SDA church.

Welcome to new members who transferred into Unit 510: Zhimin Lin of Manteca, and Bonnie Loudin, who has moved to Lodi from Houston. A special welcome to brand new members Eric Daegling, Jackie Katzakian, Brenda Colla, and Corey Colla, all in Lodi, Suzanne McElroy of Copperopolis, Kathleen Smookler in Arnold, and David Carpenter of Stockton. There is a twice a month Thursday game just for you so check out contact information on the Unit Website at www.bridgewebs.com/unit510.

Michael Wells has assumed leadership of the Sonora Bridge Club, directing the weekly Friday game. Mary Wells has continued offering beginning bridge classes in the mountains with her second group currently in lessons. A 3rd group is expected to begin in March. Marion Goldberg is using the Audrey Grant lesson package to introduce duplicate bridge to a group of her friends. If anyone else is doing informal lessons as outreach, please let Debbie DeZarn know.

Off the subject of bridge, Unit President Ken Hillman was recently inducted into the Stagg High School Football Hall of Fame, receiving a plaque recognizing his 3 years of outstanding play way back in the 1960s. His 1964 team went undefeated to win the Central Valley Conference Championship and 32 years later was inducted into the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame. Maryanne Sievers celebrated a milestone birthday at the Stockton Club February 9 with a gorgeous chocolate cake provided by her daughter. Maryanne has decorated the club with a whimsical Dr. Seuss quilt. Not knowing it was Maryanne's birthday, Cissy Hilken brought lunch for everyone that day as well.



The final results for the 2023 Unit 510 Mini-McKenney(MM), Ace of Clubs(AC), and Virtual Ace of Clubs (VAC, for online play only) awards were just released and are posted at the Stockton Club. The winners are listed by masterpoint bracket at the



beginning of 2023.

0-5	Jeanie Douglas MM and AC
5-20	Victor Naylor MM and AC
20-50	Frank Klo MM and AC, Joan Canepa VAC
50-100	Kathleen McCloskey MM and VAC, Doug Mason AC
100-200	Sharon Ritchie MM, Paula Monroe AC, and Mikki Kindelberger VAC
200-300	Earl Jones MM and AC, Shirley Womack VAC
300-500	Debbie Greenberg MM and AC, Carole Seed VAC
500-1000	Mike Wells MM, Korey Baumbach AC, Margaret Stovall VAC
1000-1500	Joy Gotelli MM, Debbie DeZarn AC, Yvonne Tiscornia VAC
1500-2500	Rose Knutson MM, Barbara Smart AC, and (tied) Alan and Susan Hamilton VAC
3500-3500	Doris Ashcroft MM and VAC
3500-5000	Stephen Tu MM and AC, Susan Kroning VAC

The next Board of Directors meeting is March 18, 2024 at the Stockton Club at 3pm. Any member may bring an issue to the Board under New Business. A current priority is making the club games more welcoming to new players with better stratification so less experienced players have more opportunities to earn masterpoints. The 99er game can be reinstated if there is enough interest among players with less than 100 points (stratified as low as under 5 points) so let Debbie DeZarn know if you want to bring some beginner friends and show them what duplicate is all about.