



Goodwill Committee Report

Gail Gabiati, Chair D21 Goodwill Committee
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Lots of Goodwill in 2024

Each year, the Goodwill Committee seeks information from all District 21 unit presidents about the best volunteers in their units. And then, amidst our carved pumpkins and bags of Halloween candy, we wait with bated breath as the submissions roll in. This year, 4 nominees truly stood out as bridge players dedicated to helping their community. I'd like to share their accomplishments with you.

Glen Rowe of Gardnerville, Nevada (Unit 465), kept his local game alive both during and after the pandemic. He stepped up as Director when no one else would do it. He teaches a free bridge class in Carson City, NV, which has brought in many new players. At the Gardnerville club, Glen and his wife, Vicki, started fun social events like the Shrimp Boil (sign me up!) and December

Holiday party. This friendly club has grown to 10 lucky tables that enjoy Glen and Vicki's fun hospitality.

Joe Truskot of Monterey (Unit 530) is truly the Club Mascot because he wears so many hats and will volunteer for any task where his skills are needed. As Membership Chair, he actively recruits and maintains members by urging lapsed members to return to the tables and enticing new members to join up. As Webmaster, he publishes the Unit newsletter and keeps the website current with upcoming news and events. This year, Joe kept busy promoting the first Monterey Sectional in 5 years, assisting the Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation in their capital campaign and curating the small art gallery at the club site. I can understand why Joe has earned the title of Club Mascot!

Year after year, Judy Leedy of Marin County (Unit 508) works tirelessly to support the game in her community. Her beaming smile encourages players to return to the tables and her friendly demeanor is a big asset in the Unit's mentorship program. Judy served on her Unit Board for 6 years, chaired the Marin Sectional numerous times and still continues to be an active volunteer at this very busy event. The Unit's weekly newsletter, *The Blast*, was produced by Judy for many years, ensuring Unit members stayed informed and connected with her signature sense of humor and clever way with words! Though she's recently handed the reins to a new editor, Judy helps with every issue. Judy is the backbone of her Unit and embodies the true spirit of goodwill.

Marc Cervellino is the financial mastermind of the Palo Alto Unit. Serving on the Board for the past 5 years (Treasurer for 4 years), he has co-chaired most of the Unit's Sectionals as well as the effort to introduce Non-Life Master Regionals to District 21. This has drawn more intermediate and newcomers to the fun of tournament play, a benefit both for the players and to the bridge world. Marc enjoys organizing celebrity guest lectures at the club and special holiday club games, again adding prestige and fun to the Palo Alto Club. Marc also encourages other Units to enjoy using the Palo Alto dedicated bridge site, since finding space in the real-estate-challenged Bay Area to hold tournaments is a constant problem. Again, this is a benefit felt far beyond the borders of the Palo Alto Bridge Club. We are all lucky to have energetic Marc thinking of new ideas to further the game of bridge.

These four Goodwill Award winners inspire all of us to get out there and say, "Yes, I can help", and with that, we can all make a difference. The Goodwill Committee appreciates all who volunteer to make the bridge world a successful and welcoming community.

The D21 Goodwill Committee,

Gail Gabiati
Tom Pajak
Jane Maloney

Anthony Toto
Mark Humphrey