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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 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 grumblers, 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.)

Bella



East Bay By Tom Pajak (502)



Get ready for two important events coming up soon! On March 29th we're playing in the annual "Tunnel Tourney" that's a competition between unit 499 (Diablo Valley) and unit 510 (East Bay). We've been competing in this even for the past 10 years to see which partnerships can overscore those of the opposing unit. For the flyer and registration go to unit502.com.

These games have been challenges for many years and you'll want to support your unit to make sure the coveted trophy comes home to be displayed prominently in YOUR unit's location. So....if you're from Unit 502 or Unit 499 follow the links on the flyer to register and get ready to compete on March 29th. The contest (sponsored by Unit 499) will be held at the East Bay Community Bridge Center in Oakland with the 2-session contest separated by a delicious lunch catered by Unit 499. You won't want to miss this. Come play and root for your unit. (Sorry, only registered players in Unit 502 or 499 are allowed to compete.)

The second event, open to all teams, is the Spring Pizza Swiss game to be held on Saturday April 19th at the East Bay Community Bridge Center. There'll be four rounds of 7 boards starting at 1:00 pm, but don't come late because the pizza party starts at noon! The fee is only \$10 per player and for that you get the Swiss game plus the pizza lunch with all the goodies. You'll be hearing more soon with a flyer to give all details. Just mark your calendars...the day before Easter—be ready to enjoy Swiss play.

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello everyone, this is our first issue of 2025!

Past Events

New Year's Eve Party: We held our New Year's Eve party a bit earlier this year, Sunday, December 29th. In our yearly election for Board of Directors, we surveyed members to see if there was an interest in having an early New Years Eve celebration on the 29th or the actual date (31st), and this day won. We had a wonderful potluck at 4 pm and a Unit Championship game at 5 pm. We had 6 tables attend the game. Winners in A were: N/S Anthony Toto & Lowell Gist (Overall Winners) and E/W Laura Da Costa & Ray April. Winners in B were: N/S Bill Glass & Ed Hampton and E/W Steve Johnson & Jackie Finn. Winners in C were: N/S Sandy Petrie & Pat Heckathorn and E/W Tay & Robert Cherry.

Unit Championship Pro-Am Teams: We had a Pro-Am Team game on January 26th. Seven teams were created, and it was great to see so many of our players had under 100 points (and a few under 5 points). With so many beginners in the group, we decided to have a round robin where every team would play every other team for 4





boards. Everyone managed to win at least two of their 6 matches. The winning team based on their 5 matches won and victory points was Victor Greener (Captain), Robert Cherry, Mary Warner, & Lori Sandersier. We try to have these Pro-Am Teams multiple times a year. I hope you will join us at a future game.

Fresno Winter Sectional: Our sectional just ended as I write this; it ran from Saturday, February 15th through Monday, February 17th (Presidents Day Weekend). Overall, we had 60 tables in this 3-day tournament; that was a nice total and ensured it would make more than our usual schedule of games, but still down from last year by quite a bit. We may need to see if there are changes that we need to make for this tournament in the future.

The big winners were President's Award winner Lowell Gist and Top 99er winner Judy Pierre. Thanks to all who attended and congratulations to all 64 players who won masterpoints. Full Sectional results can be found [HERE](#). Also, thanks to Greg Vance (Tournament Director), and the many who donated food, money, and time cleaning up.

Upcoming Events

Mentoring Game: March 2nd will be another Mentoring lesson/game. We like having this game a few times a year. In this event, mentors are stationed as North and play with one of the mentees while other mentees pair up East and West. We then have all mentees move around (even the ones playing South) so that all can hear and learn from a variety of different Mentors. We even teach a bit about how matchpoint scoring is done. This lesson is for all levels, even our newest beginners. The lesson runs for 2 to 2 ½ hours and starts at 1 pm.

St. Patrick's Day Lunch/Game: St. Patrick's Day is a Monday this year, but we had so much fun with this game last year that we decided to celebrate it a day early. We will be having a Unit Championship game and party on March 16th. Party at noon and game at 1 pm.

Members News

Board of Directors: We had our first meeting of the new year before the Pro-Am game. Our newest board member, Linda Arredondo, could not make the meeting, but we were informed that she was willing to take on the Secretary role. We appreciate her acceptance of the position and want to again thank Margot Cegielski who held that role for many years. The other officers remain the same as we have had for a couple of years now: President Don Austin, Vice-President Laura Da Costa, and Treasurer Lowell Gist.





Change of Rankings: New rankings for December 2024 & January 2025

Bronze Life Master

- Rhonda Hampton

New NABC Master

- Jim Luther

New Regional Master

- Maura Pennington

Club Master

- Nancy Hammonds

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

Pair	Percentage	Game
Margot Cegielski & Fred Schellack	70.00	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (1/18)
Lowell Gist & Victor Greener	70.37	Sat. Aft. Open Game (2/1)
Victor Greener & Matthew Wilkins	70.00	Wed. Eve. Open Game (2/5)
Linda Arredondo	71.88	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (2/7)

That’s all for this issue. I hope you join us for the Mentoring Lesson/Game and the St. Patrick’s Day Party. Keep up with all of our Unit events at fresnobridge.org.

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

Welcome to our first report of 2025! A lot of bridge was played, and Masterpoints won in 2024, as players and Units continue to unwind from the Covid years. More tournaments, increasing attendance, new friends made. This year is marking the first quarter of the 21st century, and the 70th anniversary of Unit 524!

Monterey Clam Bake Regional

Once again, the year starts right off with the ever-popular Clam Bake Regional in Monterey. Bridge players from all over the District, the Country and the World descended upon Monterey to go for gold! Unit 524 was well represented and brought home our share at all levels.





Unit members who won points at the Monterey Clam Bake Regional 2025 included Ken Johnson with 10.43 points, much of that due to finishing 8th overall, and 3rd in flight X of the Top Flight Pairs on Thursday! Great job! Others collecting points included:

Ginny Arguello

Joanne McLoughlin

Sue Comporato

Skip Pack

Jim Craig

Win Stone

Ivan Godard

And "Friends of the Unit":

Dave Jackson

Jan Pfiffer

Graham Kelly

Betsy Wagner

North American Pairs (NAP)

The District finals of the North American Pairs was staged over Saturday and Sunday at the Monterey Hyatt, to run concurrent with the final two days of the Regional. Unit 524 did not have a large turnout for the NAP, with just Graham Kelly and Jim Craig competing in the Flight A event. Graham and Jim made the cut from the Semi-final round Saturday down to the last 14 pairs, who played a double round robin on Sunday to determine the winners. Sadly, they did not finish in the top 3 and will not be going to the National Finals in Memphis.

Mining for Silver

Attendance at Sectionals is coming up but is still not what it was pre-COVID. Some of our members have been out there making the effort and enjoying the competition. KEEP IT UP! Silver points can be quite a challenge, and except for a few small events here and there, Sectional tournaments are where you need to go to get the Silver. They are also a great way to meet other players from around the District and enjoy some fun entertainment and delicious treats. Due to holidays and the Regional, not so many Sectionals were held over the past couple of months. But we did have a couple of Unit members who dropped in on. . .

Livermore Sectional, February 1-2

Lesley Waltner and Lennart Naslund traveled to Livermore to take on this event and came away with a few flecks of Silver! Congrats and well done!





Rank Advancements

We have a very active club, and again several members have moved up in rank over the past few months. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them at the table!

Lennart Naslund has reached the rank of Club Master!

Jim Kraus is also a new Club Master!

and **Kathy Kraus** is also a new Club Master!

and the mysterious **Richard Ross** is an NABC Master (200 MP)!

Well done all!

Unit Games

Sunday Unit Games were held in January and February. Generally held on the third Sunday of the month, with additional, special Unit games on an unexpected, but announced, basis, Unit games were held January 19 and February 16. The next few games will be (at least) March 16, April 20, and May 18 at 12:30 pm, in Morgan Hill at the **Centennial Recreation Center**. Skip will tell us about additional Unit Games on various Tuesdays at Casa de Fruta (11:00 am), so be alert for those announcements. The flighting and stratification for the Sunday Unit Games changed as of the beginning of the year. The B Section is now limited to players with less than 200 MPs. Both Sections are then stratified into 3 strata for the awarding of Master Points. The specific stratification can vary with each game, to make the groupings similar in size and range.

Special note about the MARCH game, on March 16. There will be a concurrent "Pupil Game" for new duplicate players with 0-5 Masterpoints, including a lesson and play. For more specifics, contact our Unit President and certified bridge teacher, Linda King, 831-801-9257.

January Unit Game in Morgan Hill (1/19/25)

The Open section was 9 full tables

N/S A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

N/S B – Mary Legrand & Lorrie Scott

N/S C – Jan Pfiffer & Pravin Lathigara

E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

E/W B&C – Dennis Rubida & Lennart Naslund





The 199er section was 2 ½ tables

First – Jim & Kathy Krause

Second – Lisa Maack & Helene Popenhager

February Unit Game in Morgan Hill (2/16/25)

The Open section was 10 full tables

N/S A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

N/S B – Patrick & Liega Arnett

N/S C – Lesley Waltner & Lennart Naslund

E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

E/W B&C – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

The 199er section was 3 tables

First – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

Second – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

Full results are available on the Unit website, and ACBL "Live for Clubs," both with hand records.

Club Games

The **Tuesday** game in **Hollister** (Buena Vista Bridge Club) is held at 11:00 am at Casa de Fruta, on Highway 152, at least for the time being. The game is generally 3 - 6 tables, and open to all. There were some weeks with no game due to holidays and illnesses. Winners over the past two months for the games held:

Dec 17 1 – Jim Craig & Win Stone

2 – Patrick & Liega Arnett

Jan 14 1 – Vinny McLoughlin & Graham Kelly

2 – Jim Craig & Geff Kinn

Jan 21 1 – Seala Fletcher Kelly & Graham Kelly

2 – Skip Pack & Marilyn Bankert





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

- Jan 28 1 – Jim Craig & Win Stone
2 – Vinny McLoughlin & Graham Kelly
- Feb 11 1 – Patrick & Liega Arnett
2 – David Glasham & Geff Kinn

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. There is an Open section and an Intermediate/Novice section with a top limit of 199 MP.

- Dec 19 (Open) N/S A – Jim Craig & Jonna Robinson
N/S B – Carol Nicoletti & Lorrie Scott
E/W A – Graham Kelly & Skip Pack
E/W B – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner
- (<499) N/S A – Elsie Shaw & Seala Fletcher-Kelly
N/S B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
N/S C – Don Montag & Julia Meader
E/W A – Ginny Arguello & Joanne McLoughlin
E/W B&C – Jim & Kathy Krause
- Jan 9 (Open) A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers
B – Lennart Naslund – Dennis Rubida
- (<199) 1st – Merrill Wolfe & Rebecca Sanchez
2nd – Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn
- Jan 16 (Open) N/S A&B&C – Carol Nicoletti & Lorrie Scott
E/WA – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers
E/W B&C – Joanne McLoughlin & Betsy Wagner
- (<199) 1st – Nancy Sampson & Maria Schalk
2nd – Jim & Kathy Krause





- Jan 23 (Open) N/S A – Patrick Arnett & Lorrie Scott
N/S B – Lucy Grisetti & Liega Arnett
E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers
E/W B – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Joanne McLoughlin
(<199) 1st – Jim & Kathy Krause
2nd – Janet Bernhardt & Marianne Wucherpfennig
- Jan 30 (Open) 1st – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
2nd – Don McCown & Patrick Arnett
(<199) 1st – Dave Glashon & Geff Kinn
2nd – Don Montag & Julia Meader
- Feb 6 (Open) N/S A – Ken Johnson & Vinny McLoughlin
N/S B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
E/W A – Jim Craig & Graham Kelly
E/W B – Sue Comporato & Betsy Wagner
(<199) 1st – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks
2nd – Barbara Miller & Vicky Saxton
- Feb 13 (Open) N/S A – Win Stone & Jim Craig
N/S B&C – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers
E/W B – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Dennis Rubida
E/W C – Bob Wiedlin & Skip Pack

Full results are available on the Unit website, and ACBL "Live for Clubs," both with hand records.

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, 4 to 8 tables of friendly competitors each day. Look for "Stones Game" at 1:25 (local time) on BBO. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)

The Unit held the Livermore Sectional on February 1-2. This was the first one since COVID, and it was a success thanks to the hard work of many Unit members. Many thanks to all those involved! There were plenty of great snacks and coffee.

The Unit encourages players to attend even if they do not have a partner or a team—our Partnership Chair will ensure they get to play. Several players also appreciated the cushions provided for the typically uncomfortable metal chairs used in schools.

Results can be found [here](#).

The local newspaper interviewed several players and took many pictures at the club. The coverage even inspired a couple of new players to reach out about joining. [Here is the link to the article.](#)

The Livermore Club will continue to meet on Mondays at 10 a.m. Almost all games are 'special', offer extra points, and cost only \$7. Singles are always welcome—partners will be provided! Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to get matched with a partner.

We've been consistently having 8-10 tables, which is a great sign! Be sure to check out livermorebridge.com for the latest schedule, director information, and game details.

Marin By Melanie Haddad (508)



Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser for Homeward Bound of Marin. Our Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 15, was a tremendous success. Unit members brought their signature potluck dishes, creating a festive feast, while demonstrating remarkable generosity for Homeward Bound of Marin. We've had some updated numbers from Homeward Bound of Marin, and once again, Unit 508 has outdone itself, raising \$210,295.50 for Homeward Bound!

Here's a note from Homeward Bound's Development Director:

Dear Unit 508 Friends,

Once again, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for your incredible generosity and compassionate support! Your annual holiday fundraising efforts have made a profound impact over the years to help families,





seniors, veterans, and others in Marin overcome homelessness and build better futures. We are truly grateful to every one of you. To show you how your support changes lives, we want to share this video of Denna, who went from homelessness to owning a home!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6CPaftPxOI>

With the opening of our [new job training and events center](#) in Novato anticipated this spring, it's going to be an exciting year. If you'd ever like to stop by for a tour of our programs or learn more about Homeward Bound, please feel free to reach out to me directly, anytime. **Thank you** for making a meaningful difference in the lives of so many!

Sincerely,

Corry Kanzenberg, Development Director, ckanzenberg@hbofm.org

Well done and thank you, Unit 508!

Marin Sectional: Our Marin Sectional takes place on March 29 and 30, 2025, at Marin Catholic's beautifully refurbished gym. Thank you, to Sectional Chair Shirley Ehrlich, for securing this fantastic venue. We look forward to seeing you there. Click [HERE](#) for the flyer.

Unit Games! Are back! After a brief hiatus, Unit games are back and moved to Saturdays. We had a great turnout for our Unit Game on February 8, with the Board providing tasty snacks. Congratulations to Marsha and Bob Sampson, who came in first overall in the open game and to Bruce Innes and Marvin Moskowitz, who were first in the 499er game. Our next Unit game will be on April 26 at the Terra Linda Rec Center. We hope to have a mini lesson beforehand. Watch for news in the Blast.

Check the [Unit's website](#) for the up-to-date schedule.

Rank Advancements! Congratulations to our Unit 508 members on their rank advancements:

- Junior Master: Karen Dolkas
- Club Master: Johanna Stefanski and Mark Stefanski
- NABC Master: Linda Fong

And saving the best for last....Welcome New Unit Members! Unit 508 is delighted to welcome our newest members! Please join us in saying hello to Susan Durham, Marijane Guy, Jon Kadis, Sharon Kovalsky, and Deanna Mayer. We also extend a warm welcome to Laurie Milani and Kurt Teichmann, who recently transferred into Unit 508. We're thrilled to have you and look forward to seeing you at our bridge games.





Amazing Opportunity! Vince Mueller, one of our experienced players, would love to partner with you for a day at the Wednesday or Friday games in Terra Linda. This is a great opportunity to gain valuable insights and tips from a seasoned player. To schedule a playing date, give Vince a call at 415-342-3331.

Share Your Stories! Do you have an amazing game, a memorable hand, or a funny story from the bridge table? We'd love to hear from you! Share your experiences with the Unit by dropping us an email at marinunit508@gmail.com.

Stay Connected! Are you subscribed to The Blast, our weekly newsletter? It's packed with the latest Unit news and updates. Sign up [HERE](#). Don't miss out!

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



The unit is proud to announce that we now have two new Junior Masters. They are Colleen Blackman and Nancy Simas, both from Judy Remmers's Monday group. These ladies have done an excellent job learning bridge since they became ACBL members, and we look forward to seeing more about them in the future. Well done, ladies!

Judy's group had four duplicate games in the past two months. On December 2, Cathie Peck and Nance Simas won with a 58% game, while on the sixteenth of the month, Lynn Pont and Lynn Brooks took first by coming in at 63%. In January, Mike and Rose Epting dominated on the sixth with a 61% effort, and on the twentieth, Sheila Carroll and Jane Griffith won at 60%.

The December Unit Game was captured by Marcia Laird/Jeanne Russo with a 65% effort. They were first in all three strata: A, B, and C. In January, Libby Longstreth/Sheela Wani were first in A & B with a 58% game, while Barbara and Jim Page won in C.

The Saturday Invitational Game leaders were: B (readers will recall that no A players can win points in this game), first, Sharon Cole/Joyce Rudesill, second, Judy Remmers, and third, Barbara Page. In C, Wes Remmers was first, with Jim Page second, Tom Au third, and newcomer Mary Swatman turning in a strong honorable mention.

Judy and Wes Remmers had the two highest scores this period, with a 71% game and another very nice 68% effort. Sharon Cole and Joyce Rudesill had the third highest at 62%. Tom Au and Jeff Gaudio were first in B & C in a January game.

In the open game, Frank Frohman and Lee Maddocks had a remarkable 71% game in January, while Frank teamed with Bruce Rusking in December to have the second highest at 69%. And coming in third were Ralph Jungwirth and John Rollin at 67%.

High pointers for the Open Game were: first, Frank Frohman with 11.57, second





Ralph Jungwirth at 10.78, and third, Ray Adams with 8.56. In B, Sharon Cole barely edged Barbara Page 10.94 to 10.90 to take first place, while Judy Remmers finished third. In C, Jaime Hamilton took first with 7.01 points, while Jim Page was second at 6.29. Tom Au was third with 3.57.

Several of our members did well at the Las Vegas Nationals. Bruce Ruskin had a tournament to remember as he placed thirty-second in the prestigious Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs while competing against the best players in the world. He won a total of about 50 platinum points, quite an achievement! Lee Maddocks won close to 30 points, about 5 of them platinum. And Garrard Marsh and Lorraine Bocks picked up close to 10 points.

Bruce, Garrard, and Lorraine also did well in the Monterey Clambake Regional, the second week of January. Bruce won around 40 points and finished third in the highly competitive barometer pairs. Garrard and Lorraine won one event and finished with about 22 total points. It is nice to see unit members doing so well at big tournaments.

See you all again in two months.

Monterey By Ed Schrenzel (530)

The Unit 530 Monterey Bridge Club was very busy last two months!

On Wednesday January 31st, we welcomed in the New Year with our annual New Year's Eve Chinese Dinner and Open Game, hosted as always by Lyde McReynolds.

The scrumptious dinner included six menu items from Chef Lee of Monterey along with hors d'oeuvres, wine and dessert, and was followed by an 11-table game.

On January 6-12, 2025, many of our members, most of whom were recruited by Neville Kirby and Kristen McMurray, voluntarily assisted at the annual Monterey Clambake Regional Tournament at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey.

Even more of our members participated in the week-long tournament, including Joe Truskot, who was honored as the District 21 Goodwill Ambassador. Several of our players were even fortunate enough to earn points of many colors!

On Sunday January 19th, 52 players braved the chilly, windy weather to take part in our monthly Lunch and Bridge Unit Game. Before playing, attendees feasted on two delicious soups (chicken tortilla and ham hocks and kale) along with various appetizers, salads and desserts.

After the meal, they proceeded to the Maja-directed 13-table game, from which the unit received a net profit of \$922, including \$64 of donations, according to Treasurer Ray Mok.





The Bridge Club was happy to announce that Beginner and Refresher bridge lessons began on Saturday February 1st at the center. All the basics of bridge will be covered weekly by Director Hetty Eddy at a cost of \$15 per week. For further information she may be contacted at hettyeddy1@gmail.com or at 831-262-1420.

Our next monthly Unit Game was held a week early, on Sunday, February 2nd, to avoid conflicting with the Super Bowl. With a "Healthy Heart" theme, the yummy lunch consisted of four types of quiches (ham and cheese, butternut squash, mushroom, and broccoli), and was heartily enjoyed by real men (and women) along with various salads, muffins and desserts.

Afterwards, Ann Ahmadi, a retired cardiac nurse, instructed attendees on the use of our in-house AED defibrillator. Then Doug Halleen directed the 15-table, 60-attendee game, which earned a \$1,066 profit, including \$52 in donations.

The Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation announced that it has concluded its second annual fundraising campaign. It received \$13,924 in tax-free gifts from 34 donors and reported net assets of \$46,375 at year-end 2024. During the year it disbursed \$6,900 to the Monterey Bridge Club, mostly for rental support, and also disbursed funds to support bridge classes. The next monthly Lunch and Bridge Unit Game will be held on Sunday March 9th at our Center, located at 201B Calle del Oaks in Del Rey Oaks between Highways 1 and 68. Our phone number is 831-747-1650. Lunch is served at 12 noon and bridge begins about 12:30 and ends around 3:45. The cost is \$20, and all guests are welcome.

Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)

Happy 2025 from Unit 503!

Can it really be 2025 already?! It feels like just yesterday we were writing "199X" on our checks! Time flies, but with the new year comes exciting new opportunities. At Palo Alto Bridge, we're kicking off 2025 with some fantastic ways to try something new and take your bridge game to the next level.

We're thrilled to announce our "Find-a-Partner" duplicate bridge games, designed to help you connect with potential partners and expand your bridge circle. Whether you're looking for a regular partner or just want to meet some new faces, this is a great way to start the year off right! We have also launched the New-X Game, a unique opportunity for newer players to partner with experienced ones in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere. Players compete in a pairs game and, after the game, get valuable feedback on bidding, declarer play, defense, and more. It's a fun way to learn and grow in your bridge journey! And, of course, we're still offering all your favorites: daily bridge games, exciting tournaments, celebrity lectures, holiday events, and much more. We can't wait to see you at Palo Alto Bridge in 2025 – let's make it a year full of fun, learning, and new connections!





Here are details on upcoming events at Palo Alto Bridge Center:

- **Daily Monday – Friday club games:** Bridge Center is open every weekday. [SignUp](#)
- **Monthly Swiss Team club games:** Mondays March 10, April 14 at 11:30am. [Swiss Team games SignUp](#)
- **Saturday club games:** next play date (rain or shine) February 22. [SignUp](#)
- **Kathy Harper's classes:** her Spring season of classes start this month on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings – register: [Bridge classes](#)
- **Celebrity seminar by Adam Parrish:** "All sorts of Doubles!" via Zoom on Saturday, March 1 – Save the Date!
- **San Mateo Winter Sectional:** earn silver points on Saturday March 8 and Sunday March 9. [SanMateo Sectional](#)
- **Silicon Valley Unit 3-day Sectional:** Friday April 4 through Sunday April 6. Save the Dates!
- **Palo Alto Bridge 4-day Sectional (Open & Silver Rush):** Thursday April 24 through Sunday April 27. Save the Dates!
- **District 21 STaC Week:** May 5-11 and August 18-24 and November 17-23
- **Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY):** Casual Fridays & other programs: [SiVY website](#)

Changes for the new year:

- **Tuesday club** game at 10:45am no longer serves a full lunch – just light snacks.
- **Wednesday night club** game welcomes **Allen Simon** as new club director as he joins Paul Davis to be club co-owner after the retirement of Lori Spaeth and Marolyn Imaoka.
- **Thursday club** game at 11:30am will have a **new 49er** section starting on January 16.
- **Friday club** game has changed its start time to **10:45am** and will serve Soup & Salad.





- **Newer Players:** we have novice/0-49 masterpoint games at the Bridge Center on **Tuesdays** at 10:45am, **Wednesday evenings** at 6:45pm, and **Thursdays** at 11:30am starting January 16. Gain experience and improve your game in a relaxed environment. [SignUp](#)

Recent Highlights

Our **Holiday Party** on December 15 brought out 164 players, filling up our Bridge Center to gather for great bridge with friends, an array of delicious appetizers and showing off our 'ugliest' sweaters. Huge thank-you to new Board member **Alex Narasin** (second from left in pic) and her crew of volunteers – **Mary Steele, Gretchen Wyatt, Dana Bisconti, Lucy Ballard, Kathryn Barnard, Josephine Ventura, Will Watson,** and **Greg Gauthier** – for organizing a hugely enjoyable event and collecting many prizes for the drawings. In lieu of game fees, thank you for donating a total of \$1,130 to [Second Harvest of Silicon Valley](#) and \$750 to [Community Services Agency \(CSA\)](#).



At the annual party, **Stephanie Youngquist** was recognized for Exceptional Service and awarded the **2024 Palo Alto Bridge Service Award**. Stephanie, currently our Vice-President and Board member, has volunteered for many years for Palo Alto Bridge and SiVY.



A special mention was made as we recognized **Kathy Wheeler** for her significant contribution in the last 3 years organizing the pro-celebrity seminars, bringing in much needed revenue for Palo Alto Bridge.

December 18 was the **retirement party** game for club directors/owners **Lori Spaeth** and **Marolyn Imaoka** – 123 players turned up to honor and show their appreciation for Lori's and Marolyn's contribution to the Doubleton Club on Wednesday nights, and their impact on many players over many years. Thank you to **Stephanie Youngquist** for making this party even more special! The Wednesday night club game will continue and be run by Paul Davis and Allen Simon.



Check out [our Facebook page](#) for more photos from these special events!





Thank you to all those people who made a tax-deductible **donation** to [Peninsula Bridge Education Foundation \(PBEF\)](#) – your contribution goes a long way to preserving bridge in our community.



We are delighted and very proud to announce that **Marc Cervellino**, representing Palo Alto Bridge, is a **2024 District 21 Goodwill Award Winner**. Every year, D21 seeks out the best volunteers from the units, and Marc is one of 4 winners. In addition to baking cupcakes for our Halloween party, Marc does almost everything else! He is Treasurer, Board member, tournament co-chair, great ideas generator, and a wonderful person to work with. He makes volunteering look easy! So, join our volunteer group!

Here's a New Year resolution for you! We need **volunteers**, in particular for special events, marketing and publicity, coordinating our free lecture series, and help organize a bridge tournament. Please contact either our Volunteer Chair, **Gerry MacDonald** (geraldinem@aol.com), or me.

Our **monthly Swiss teams** game event have provided players a competitive environment to test their team skills. Ten teams played on December 9 – congrats to the winning team: **Edward Lechner - Dale Kramer - Rob Boucher - Jackie Lowenberg** – a notable achievement as a strat C team beating many more experienced players! And at our January 13 Swiss team game we had 13 teams compete. Congratulations to the winning team: **Ronald Powell - Edward Barlow - Frank Xie - Arif Janjua**.

Many of our members played at the District 21's popular **Monterey Regional** tournament from January 6-12. Congrats to the top Palo Alto Bridge masterpoint winners: **Olivia Schireson** (72mps), **Susan Zhang** (60mps), **Bo Han Zhu** (45mps), **Gary Macgregor** (42mps), **Denise Pitsch** (40mps).

A huge thank you to **Amber Lin** for hosting her **Celebrity seminar**: "Think Like an Expert at Trick 1" which took place via Zoom on January 18. **Amber Lin** gave a great seminar of useful information. If you missed this and any of our past Celebrity Seminars, you can purchase any seminar from our website: [Past Celebrity Seminars](#). Big thank-you to our webmaster, **Alan Templeton**, for helping us with this launch, and his steadfast assistance maintaining our website.

Nine teams competed in the **GNTs Flight C** games held on January 25-26. Congrats to **Youfeng Wu** and his teammates **Shailesh Sampat, Milind Girkar, and Henry Zhang** on their 1st win! And also congrats to other Palo Alto Bridge players: **Pearl Renaker – Kathy Mach – David Scherer – Solveig Kjartansdottir** for coming 4th. [GNT Flight C results](#)





Find-a-Partner game: A common challenge of bridge is finding more compatible bridge partners for face-to-face play. Find-a-Partner games are similar to “speed dating”, where players play several hands and switch partners. So far, we have held two Find-a-Partner games. The two Wednesday morning sessions started with a free lecture by Teacher of the Year, **Phil Abrahamson**, followed by several rounds where players switched partners, and each received a free play at the club. Forty-six players signed up, ranging from beginners to experienced Gold Life Masters, with a notable 24% being inactive or non-ACBL members, helping to expand participation. Highlights include positive feedback, a high attendance rate, and the event's potential to re-engage past ACBL members, some of whom have already renewed memberships and found regular partners. While the team faced challenges in managing player movements and attendance, we are planning future additional events. A huge thank-you to our volunteers: **Marc Cervellino, Liz Koh, Phil Abrahamson, Stephanie Youngquist, H. Paul Davis, and Will Watson**, for making this a success. Keep in touch with our schedule at: [Find-a-Partner games](#).

New-X game: The first New-X-game was held at the club on Saturday, February 1. We had a total of 13 tables with 26 newer players partnered up with 26 experienced players (like a Pro-Am golf tournament). We would like to thank all the participants, newbies and experienced players, for being a part of this debut event. A big thank-you to **our experienced players** who volunteered to play, and to our volunteer team: **H. Paul Davis, Phil Abrahamson, Marc Cervellino, and Liz Koh** for organizing this. Watch for future dates and be part of this new adventure!



Marketing: Palo Alto Bridge has a **new logo!** Thank-you to **Rebecca Merenbach** (not yet a bridge player!) for generously volunteering her graphic design skills to help us create such a beautiful colorful logo. Thank-you also to the Marketing Committee volunteers (Chair **Pete Moulds, Dianne Giancarlo, Marc Cervellino, David Merenbach, Liz Koh**) for their efforts to help with this.

Sad news: Alan Cummings recently passed away. Many of you will remember Alan – he was a great volunteer for Palo Alto Bridge: a former President, Board member, free lecture organizer, mentor, and led many other initiatives. He was awarded the 2009 Palo Alto Bridge Service Award.



Congrats to the following Palo Alto Unit 503 members who achieved a **new ACBL Rank in December:**

Junior Master: **Marilyn Wiley, Mike Wyatt**

Club Master: **Ronnie Aronowitz, Lela Hunter, Will Wood**

Bronze Life Master: **Virginia Dare**

Silver Life Master: **Clive Surfleet**

Ruby Life Master: **Gary Sheerer**

Gold Life Master: **Ying Liu**

Congrats to the following Palo Alto Unit 503 members who achieved a **new ACBL Rank in January:**

Junior Master: **Daniel Cohen, Kent Perkocha, Rachel Perkocha**

Club Master: **David Joffe, Lisa Steiny**

Regional Master: **Solveig Kjartansdottir**

Advanced NABC Master: **Nancy Steinbach**

Bronze Life Master: **Ioana Galis, Kathy Wheeler**

Silver Life Master: **Robert Brunkhorst, Gerry Macdonald**

Ruby Life Master: **Winston Huang, Rich Nielsen**

Diamond Life Master (5000mps): **Ming Sheng**

A very warm welcome to our **new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Elizabeth Roney, Ping Chen, Betsy Friebe, Josh Jia, Ed Lechner, and Pamela Resser.**

Play, Laugh & Learn!

San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)

Much has gone on since our last missive: Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, Gregorian New Year, and Lunar New Year. In addition to those celebrations, some of us are still cheering the whomping of the Kansas City Chiefs by the Philadelphia Eagles. Hope you have enjoyed all the celebrations in which you participated the last couple of months.





Remembering Stan Chow

The Sunset Bridge Club hosted 19 tables on January 15th in memory of Stan Chow who passed away last November. Participants from the South Bay to the North Bay joined the memorial. The event was catered by Hard Knox Café on 28th and Clement in San Francisco, one of Stan's favorites. Stan also liked his ice cream, so the game broke in the middle for sundaes with vanilla and chocolate ice cream and caramel and chocolate toppings. Everyone was glad to meet up again as some of these people had not gotten together since the pandemic started. Several folks gave lovely memories of Stan. Many commented on his playing quickly (sometimes too quickly) and his willingness to play with anyone. He could often be relied upon to fill in at the Sunset and other bridge clubs when there was an incomplete table. Appropriately, Stan's long-time friend, Cathy Hildebrand, came in first in one of the sections. Her partner that day was Robert Ng whose scheduled partner could not make it at the last minute.

San Francisco Sectional

Two days after Stan's memorial, Unit 506 hosted its January Sectional at St. Mary's of the Assumption Cathedral. It was a two-day event with pairs on Saturday and teams on Sunday. It was great to see 12 tables of 499ers whom we hope to come back to our Unit games and club games in The City. Robert Saken and Brandi Chavin finished first in the 499er section. Kumar Ramaiyer of Cupertino, CA and Ravi Thomas of Redwood City, CA won the Open pairs on Saturday. Denny Arar and Christian Goetze foreshadowed their experience 10 days later by coming in first in their bracket on Sunday with teammates Chris Friday and Martha Keller. Mark your calendars as the next Sectional will be September 27th and 28th at St. Mary's.

Aloha!

Just 10 days after the Sectional, 20 members and families of the Chinese American Bridge Club (CABC) headed to Honolulu, Hawai'i for the 72nd Hawai'i Regional. It's not that we don't have four wonderful Regionals within driving distance, but CABC was celebrating being eligible for Medicare (their 65th Anniversary). In one



bracketed team game, Denny Arar, Christian Goetze, Kris Wong, and Lynn Magnet took first place. The team was not diminished in the least when Maria Abbott played in place of Kris the next team and again came in first. The big winner was Christian Goetze who





led all CABC members with 31.36 MP, just ahead of his wife, Denny Arar, who had 30.52 MP. Both were in the Top 40 of overall MP.

It wasn't all bridge, however. Several of the players took tours of Oahu with our own Michele Burton, who was born and raised there and going home for a visit. Unfortunately, the weather interfered with those wanting to go sailing and snorkeling. The trip culminated with a buffet dinner at the host hotel where all the CABC members recapped their adventures. They also found the time to catch up with former CABC members who have moved to the Islands.

Unit game

Because of scheduling issues, the unit had their February unit game on the first of the month. The attendance was lower than we would have liked due to the Hawai'i trip, but those who joined us had a great time. The 499ers again made a strong appearance with 5 tables. Kevin Babcock & Christina Lo came in first N/S while Mike Macko & Jeff Cohen came in first E/W.

In the Open game, Tracey Bauer and Keith Bauer came in first (modesty prevents me from telling you that Janice O'Brien came in second with her fabulous partner) N/S. E/W ended in a tie for first between Tom Mc Kelvey & John Santibanes & Stella Wan & Sylvia Shi.

Before the game, Vicki Lerner gave us one of her wonderful talks: "Bidding Certain Hands After Partner Opens 1NT." Because there were fewer people than usual, we all sat around a table listening to Vicki's talk in the form of a college seminar class.

The next unit game will be on Saturday, March 15th. It will be held at the usual spot, St. Mary's the Assumption Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. at Geary. Lauren Friedman will speak on "Modern Losing Trick Count" at 11:00 am and the game starts at 12:00 noon. Here is a link to the flyer: [Unit 506 March 15th](#).

Upcoming events around the Unit

[Quick Tricks](#) has begun their monthly Chalk Talks again. On March 3rd, Bruce Blakely will give a talk on Overcalls. If you know someone interested in bridge lessons check out what Quick Tricks is offering later in the year. You have to move fast, though, as these lessons fill up fast.

The Carlisle Bridge Club meets every Tuesday at 1:00 pm at the Carlisle Senior Residence, 1450 Post St (between Octavia & Gough) in San Francisco. Free parking is available in the Visitor spots in the garage.

The [Sunset Bridge Club](#) will be holding Education Foundation Fund games through February. Extra points will be awarded for the usual price of \$10. On March 3rd and 5th, Sunset will have its Club Championships for the quarter. And on April 16th, Sunset





will participate in the ACBL-wide Charity Game.

Thanks for reading and hope to see you soon at the bridge tables.

San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



Thanks to the efforts of our new and returning Board members, 2025 is off to a busy start for Unit 498!

Unit Game coordinators Eileen DiGiorgio and Leslie Braker kicked off our activities with a packed Unit Game and lunch on January 25th at the Villa in San Mateo. We had more than 60 players attend, making the day social and competitive. They plan to do it again on February 22nd and welcome all our Unit members to join in.

Vice President Kit Morse revived our in-person Mentor/Mentee game on January 29th. We had been holding this game monthly online since the pandemic. This time, many new players and players who had only played in our online Mentor/Mentee games were able to meet each other face-to-face and enjoy a pizza party before the game began.

We thank Kit for recruiting players and mentors, and for organizing all the budding partnerships.

We're very excited to host our Winter Sectional on March 8-9 at the Palo Alto Bridge Center in Mountain View. On Saturday, we'll host 499er and Open Pairs in morning and afternoon sessions. We'll have a special 99er session as well on Saturday morning, where the winners will become the next pair to have their names permanently engraved on the Art Weinstein Memorial Trophy. On Sunday, all the games will be team events where players will honor the memory of Janice Nakao.

We're also looking forward to our one-day NLM Sectional at the Villa in San Mateo on Saturday, April 12th. Sessions start at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm and are limited to players with fewer than 750 masterpoints who are not yet life masters.

Details for these events are available on our website, which has news of new members, rank advancements, results and schedules for our Unit and Club Games, and more.

Please visit us: www.unit498.com.





Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)



2025 started off with a great fun. Many of our members enjoyed the week of the **Monterey Regional**. Held in Monterey, CA which is just a short drive from Santa Cruz. Numerous pairs from Unit 550 won gold and red points. To view a complete list of winning pairs and teams, please visit the ACBL tournaments website for all results: live.acbl.org To select Regional Results: Locate and click on "Monterey, California." Find the day played and type of game played, i.e. gold rush, Swiss, bracketed teams, or pairs - midflight- topflight - 499er - side pairs. Locate the player's name(s).

Congratulations to all who placed and those who played! Thanks to Monterey Bridge Club for hosting and helping throughout!

Following up on our Dolores Abrams Holiday Party, Top scorers were not available at the time of the DIR, our winners were in the Open: Heather MacGregor and Gary MacGregor with 68.0%, and in the 299er: Craig Smart – Sam O'Neill 63.3%. Their names will be on our Memorial plaque for 2024.

Welcome New Members

Lyn Kondrot

James Van Campen

Nikki Shoemaker

Peter Emanuel

New Accomplishments: Hitting new Heights

Nandar Vadas - New Junior Master

Lori Pelc - New NABC Master

Susan Pearce - New Section Master

Kristin Smith - New Silver Life Master

70% Games 12/11 to 2/12/2025

02/04/2025 Jared Boggs - Kenneth Martin 73.08%

Rising Stars Tournament March 8th and 9thSEE YOU THERE

Rising Stars Tournament

March 8 & 9, 2025 is at our own:

Santa Cruz Bridge Center

2450 17th Avenue, Suite 200

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Silver points awarded all events. All players with less than 750 MPs may play in this sectional. Strats based on average; Director may modify strats based on attendance.





Luncheon sandwich orders taken at check-in. Schedule below are see [flyer](#).

Saturday

10AM & 2:30PM*

Stratified Newcomer Pairs 0-20, 20-50, 50-100 mps

10AM & 2:30PM*

Stratified Pairs 0-200, 200-400, 400-750

*Single-session games, players may play either or both

Sunday

10AM*

Stratified Newcomer Pairs 0-20, 20-50, 50-100 mps

*Single-session game

10AM**

Stratified Swiss Teams 0-200, 200-400, 400-750 mps

**2 sessions; play through with short lunch break

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)

March 2025 (Dec 16 - Feb 17)



It's that time of year again. We're getting ready for our Spring Sectional. This is always a great

sectional since it's Spring in Sonoma Valley. What better place to be in the Spring! So far, this year we've had plenty of rain. A couple weeks from now we expect to see LOTS of beautiful flowers, baby lambs, and blue skies.



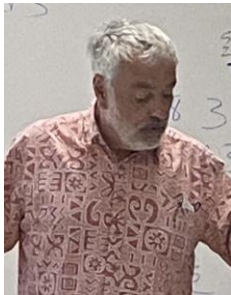
Our Spring Sectional is Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2. We'll be in the Petaluma Community Center as we were last year. Here in Petaluma, we take pride in good food. This year, on Saturday, we will have delicious, gourmet sandwiches





available for purchase from *The Local*, a great new restaurant in Petaluma. You will be able to order yours before game time Saturday morning, and it will be delivered by lunchtime. All sandwiches are \$12. This is a great alternative to bringing your own lunch, as we only have 45 minutes for lunch on Saturday. On Sunday, Jackie Ortiz will be cooking up one of her delicious lunches for the team game. Here's the menu: Ham, Fresh Dill Potato Salad, Tortellini Salad, Green Salad, Fresh Vegetable Salad, Fruit Salad, Croissants, and Cup Cakes. I can't wait! Saturday, we offer 499er pairs and Open Pairs at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The 499er pairs who play both sessions and are ACBL members with no more than 20 MPs play for free in the afternoon. On Sunday, we offer B/C/D Swiss Teams for teams whose players all have fewer than 3,000 MPs. Though any team can play in the A/AX strat, those teams with no players over 5,000 MPs will be AX, and the rest of the teams will A. For more information, see [Here](#).

(Thanks to Maxine Reagh for the following lesson summaries)



Our unit games continue to be a big hit. On January 25, more than 60 people attended the Tony Jackson's *Tony's Favorite Bridge Tips*. Extended New Minor Forcing was his first mini lesson, Preempts Work! came next, Doubling Over a 1NT Overcall When You Have 10 followed, and then Responsive Doubles. A 28-page handout that has even more tips and examples accompanied the lesson, chock-full of great bridge ideas. Everyone was more than satisfied.

Lunch followed with Jackie's lunch of tortellini, fritters, green salad, carrot

salad, and mini-muffins and Tony's cookies and bars. We had 13 1/2 tables in the A flight. First overall and first in A were Lynn Blumenthal and Evelyn Holtz with an impressive 69.10%. First in B and C E/W were Laurie Vree and Judy Duport. Sitting N/S, first in A were Jim Reed and Kate Hill, and first in B were Hans Van Boldrik and Roy Redlich. In the 499er game, first were Winifred Whooley and Cathy Netz with 61%, and second were Karen Rice and Wendy Merget with 58%.



Our February unit game was held February 15. Evelyn Holtz taught *Lebensohl, Part 2*. The lesson focused on using this convention when partner doubles after a weak two bid by the opponents. She broke the responses into



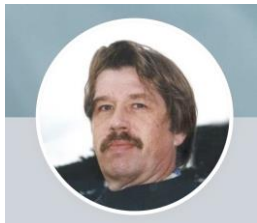


three categories: weak, medium and high and went on to explain how to proceed whether the weak two bid was spades or hearts or diamonds. Her handout was clear and concise and included a quiz to help us test out our new knowledge. Pizza, salad, and desserts by Tony made for a nice lunch. Ten and a half tables competed in the unit game following. The top pair, Jerry Besses and Jeff Sacher, scored 63.65% for 1st A, B, and C, beating 2nd place Mark Hersko and Larry Spanier by more than 5%. First N/S, Gary Robinson and Bob Klein, scored 61.79% while 1st in B and C N/S were Laurie Vree and Judy Duport.

In December we had a very rare occurrence. On December 20 in Oakmont, both N/S and E/W winners topped the 70% goal. Laurie Vree and Judy Duport brought in 71.43%, and Lori Kiefer and Robert Keays scored 70.63%. On January 7, in Oakmont, Howard Neckel and Jan Conklin won with 70%.

On BBO, on 12/21, Tony Jackson and Patty Hearst scored 77.42% to come in 1st out of 140 pairs. Wow! On 12/25, Mark Hersko and Debbie Tesler scored 71.75%, 1st out of 54 pairs. Outdoing themselves, Mark and Debbie scored 72.26% for 1st out of 166 pairs on December 29. On January 6, Jackie Ortiz played in the Speedball Individual game with 95 other players, coming in 1st overall with a score of 83.71%. On January 15, David Anderson and Herschel Cozine played in a 499er Silver Point tournament coming in first E/W out of 59 pairs with 66.91%, winning 2.4 silver points.

Our newest Junior Master is Steve Harold, and our newest Sapphire Master is Shirley Blum.



Since our last newsletter, Unit 509 has lost 2 of our members, John McNulty and Herm Herman. May they rest in peace.



Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



It has been exactly eight weeks since I wrote my last column. In that time span, we've had two monthly Unit Board meetings, the Monterey Regional, and also our Unit 507 winter holiday party on the third weekend in January. We also have a spring sectional scheduled for April 4 through 6. Click on this [link](#) to see the schedule.

For the holiday party, the Unit provided a lunch from Buca di Beppo that included Caesar salad, spaghetti marinara, chicken marsala, and fresh bread. Unit members contributed desserts and drinks. The open game had 15.5 tables (my partner and I were the half-table) and the 499er game had 3 tables. First overall in the open game





were Malcom McLaughlin & Luen-Jyh Luo. First in their stratifications ("strats") were Milind Girkar & Shailesh Sampat and Pamela Meckenstock & Joanne Nelson. Section tops went to Lynn Bartz & Ken Imboden and Stu Goodgold & Songtao Zhang. First in the limited game in all strats were Terry & Christine Chapman. For next time, the Board learned that players don't have unlimited appetites, except, perhaps, for bridge.

Taking a look at the tournament trail, my last column reported on the tournaments held in December. A number of U507 members found success at the Monterey Regional in January. Topping their respective team brackets were: Li Zhang, Wei Chen & Guoliang Yu; Norman Marks, Ron Baron, Ken Imboden, Lynn Bartz; Monica Bacon-Proctor; Mike Cailean; Marcia & Robert Dean, Leila Sink & David Helmbold; Annette Powers; Stacie Bowman; Peter Sun; and John Stremel.

In open pair games in Monterey, Rich Reitman had a first-place finish. Earning strat tops were Brenna Wundram & Luen-Jyh Luo, Arif Janjua & Avi Mukherjee, and Aravind Alwan. Obtaining section tops were Richard Reitman and Aravind Alwan twice.

In limited pair games, John Stremel and Rochell Alhadeff & Francie Effren finished in first places, Li Zhang had a strat top, and section tops went to Li Zhang, Wendy & David Fotland, Rajeev Gupta & Manoj Thawani, Anne Wilson; John Stremel (twice), Ann & John Wainwright, and Kathy Ormseth (twice).

At a regional in Arizona, a team with Richard Reitman, Cheryl Mandala & Yul Inn placed first in events.

At the San Francisco sectional, Kumar Ramaiyer was first in the open pairs. At the Livermore sectional, Michael Fleisher took first in the open pairs, while Lynn Shannon & John Miller had a section top. A team with Michael Bodell, Mike Cailean, & Aravind Alwan was first in its bracket. Lynn & John were also on a first-place team at a Phoenix sectional.

In District 21 competitions, Yannie Zhao placed first in North American Pairs Flight C. First in Flight C of the Grand National Teams were Milind Girkar, Shailesh Sampat, & Henry Zhang. First in Flight B was Aravind Alwan's team.

Congratulations to the latest Unit 507 Masters: Ajay Bansai, Craig Hom, Hank Hsu, Ritwik Keshav, Demian Li, Gary Moore (Junior); Carol Reid (Club), Kapil Bhalla, Yin Lin, Pravesh Mehra (Sectional); Rhonda Hardy (NABC); Jan Pfiffner (Advanced NABC); Pamela Meckenstock (Life); Kayden Ge (Bronze); Roy Tsai (Silver); Jim Liu (Sapphire).

If in February you started seeing a monthly message from the President of adjoining Unit 503 about events their unit is having, our two Units have agreed to cross-promote each other's events. We are aware their club currently offers more games and it's a quick trip for some of our bridge-hungry members. They have affordable facilities to host our sectionals, which can't be said about other venues. In the future, we'll be talking to other nearby Units about similar cooperation.





Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



Will it ever be warm again? Of course! But arriving at the bridge club in 3 layers of warmth for the first chilly hour is getting a little old. Thank goodness people have been bringing goodies to go with the hot coffee and now hot chocolate, too! Many thanks to those who have bought pizza, tacos, or Subway sandwiches for all the players on unexpected days as well!

In January, Ann Chargin turned 102 and the Stockton Club celebrated with cake! She still drives herself to the club and does so quickly so she "won't hold anyone up".



Sue Vogtlin has officially become a Unit 510 member and joined the Board of Directors as of the January meeting. There is still a vacancy if anyone would like to join the Board and become a "tiebreaker" in the ninth seat. Meetings are the 3rd Monday of odd months, with the next meeting scheduled for March 17. Anyone is welcome to attend...wear Green!

Congratulations to Claudia Prather who became a Club Master in January! I hope to announce many more rank advancements in the next issue as so many are really close.

Bonnie Loudin moved into our Unit (Lodi) many months ago but hadn't yet played in a local Club. It turns out she met both Mary Wells and Mary Westin elsewhere and has now played in person at the Stockton Bridge Club twice in February, scratching both times! Welcome Bonnie. Any other new Unit members in the Manteca-Tracy-Lodi areas please text Rose Knutson (209-969-2414) to ask for a partner to play at the Stockton Club. NLM games are 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 11:30, and Open games are MWF at 11:30 each time except for once a month (3rd) Sunday potluck Open game at noon.

The Monterey Clambake Regional is always a big draw for Stockton Unit players and this year was no exception with 19 attending. Top point winners were Mary and Michael Wells and Sherrie Barakatt with over 15, Carole Seed and Mary Westin with over 12, Joy Gotelli, Byron Barclay, and Doris Ashcroft with over 7. The rest of us all got a little something but not the big hauls of some prior years. It was the very first Regional for Paula Monroe who won some gold and also placed first in a 499er game with 73%.

Mary Wells continues to teach bridge out of her home in Copperopolis and offers a sanctioned "satellite" beginner game as well. Wendy Buchanan is starting another 10-session beginner class at the Stockton Club on February 25. It will be a repeat of the class offered in the fall, but the two extra sessions will allow a slower pace. Some of the "beginner beginners" are retaking the class hoping to be less overwhelmed this time.





For most of us, learning bridge was so long ago that we have forgotten just how mind boggling it can be! There is still room in the class (offered through SICL at Delta College) if you want to encourage some friends to take up our favorite game.

The final rankings are out for the 2024 Mini-McKenney, Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs, and Virtual Ace of Clubs awards. The following people are first in their divisions (which is based on their total masterpoints on January 1, 2024):

<i>Points</i>	<i>Mini-McKenney</i>	<i>Shanbrom Ace of Clubs</i>	<i>Virtual Ace of Clubs</i>
0-5	Beryl Simkins	Beryl Simkins	Herbert Pike
5-20	Jeanie Douglas	Jeanie Douglas	
20-50	Zhimin Lin	Zhimin Lin	Joan Canepa
50-100	Frank Klo, Jr.	Frank Klo, Jr.	Janis Morehead
100-200	Mikki Kindelberger	Aurene Schene	Mikki Kindelberger
200-300	Paula Monroe	Paula Monroe	
300-500	Earl Jones	Earl Jones	George Westin
500-1000	Mike Wells	Mike Wells	Sherrie Barakatt
1000-1500	Debra DeZarn	Glo Klinger Williams	Yvonne Tiscornia
1500-2500	Rose Knutson	Mort Horn	Alan Hamilton
2500-3500	Doris Ashcroft		Doris Ashcroft
3500-5000	Stephen Tu	Stephen Tu	Susan Kroning

Currently our Unit does not have any active members with more than 5000 masterpoints. There is a full listing of the top 25 in each division at both the District 21 and Unit 510 levels. You can see those on the ACBL Website after logging in to your own account at MyAcbl.

