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

Pass It Along

This column is dedicated to encouraging us, as well as others, to play this brain game. Most younger people just think it's for old folks. But in reality, other countries have youngsters mandatorily enrolled in classes. India is one of the countries that believe bridge helps the students hone in on becoming smarter adults.

Studies show cognitive benefits to playing card games by teaching children new strategies for using mathematical information, categorizing patterns, sequencing and sorting.

So, share the good news with your children and grandchildren. If they are willing to patronize you for 15 minutes, SUPER. I did that with my granddaughter, took her to classes, and she still likes to engage in bridge. This card game lasts for a lifetime.

When sharing with your neighbors, friends, whomever will listen, ask them to come and play. Truth be told, there's side effects. It's demanding, competitive, and comes with some regrets. However, the icing on the cake is winning, and that's why we keep coming back for seconds, thirds, and always wanting more.

Maybe as we age, it's more important to find value in playing, and winning. Whatever emotions are provoked, it's best to keep them under wraps, and scream when you get home. Yes, the socialization is vital, so we need to keep our cool, be kind, and press the right button. By conveying a positive message to others, we may just attract others to join in.

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello everyone. We have a variety of things to discuss. A Pro-Am Team game, some Spring cleaning, and a few important events coming up.

Past Events

Pro-Am Team Game and PotLuck: We had a potluck lunch on Sunday March 22nd followed by a Pro-Am Team game. We had just 16 people attend the game, down a bit from what these games used to draw. However, those in attendance not only were treated to a wonderful variety of food for lunch, but also a fun game. Winners with three victories were: Laura Da Costa (captain), Gwen Davey, Marion Austin, and Margot Cegielski. As much as I enjoyed the team victory, I was also thrilled that all teams had at least one victory. Nice to have everyone go home with some masterpoints.

Spring Clean Up Day: We have been in this clubhouse for 4½ years and decided that we needed a deep cleaning. We asked for volunteers with only a promise of some





pizza for their efforts. We ended up with a wonderful team of volunteers: Don Austin, Jackie Finn, Lowell Gist, Patty Head, JoAnn Huebner, Steve Johnson, Marianne Kast, Jim Luther, Jason McAlexander, Lori Sandersier, Cyndi Tingey, Mary & Tom Warner, and myself. We ended up replacing the chairs that were ripped or no longer glided on the carpet, emptied and removed two large cabinets, and tackled the time-consuming job of cleaning bidding boxes. This job has been needed for some time, but what pushed to get it done more recently was the donation of 12 nice chairs and some large filing cabinets (and a refrigerator) from the business across from us who has decided to work from home and close their office.



We thought it would take a while to get rid of the huge chair pile but thankfully that wasn't the case. A great big thank you to Marianne for posting our items on Facebook and getting most of it claimed within just two days.

Upcoming Events

Royal Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) Week: For the week of May 4th – 10th, most of our games will be participating in STaC week. Since this is a "Royal" STaC, all of these games will award 25% gold, 25% red, 25% silver, and 25% black masterpoints. It is a great chance to win "pigmented" points in our own clubhouse.

Richard Meffley Memorial Game: We will be having this Memorial game on Sunday, May 17th. We will be honoring those players we have lost over the past year. The players that I know of are Jane Bragg, Carol Miller, and Donny Graham. If any know of someone else that should be included, please let me know.

Longest Day Marathon: The Unit 522 Board of Directors haven't scheduled this tournament yet, but you can expect it will be on June 20th as that is the Saturday closest to the Longest Day (the 21st). Unit 522 has participated in this event since Friday, June 21st, 2013. At that time, Alzheimer's Association and the ACBL were encouraging doing an event from Sunrise to Sunset. We chose to have five games back then and continued to do five for a while after. We have had as few as three games. In recent years, we have settled on having four games—going from sunrise (6 am) to about 6:30 pm. The ACBL provides extra matchpoints for these games and donates table fees to the Alzheimer's Association. We also donate our profits for the day and collect donations from our members as well. The slogan from the Alzheimer's





Association this year is to "Do What You Love to End ALZ." I hope you mark the day in your calendar and join us. A flyer will be posted in May with our schedule.

Members News

Change of Rankings: New rankings for February & March 2026. I mentioned Matt's last issue, but it wasn't official then.

Sectional Master

- Neville Abraham

Ruby Life Master

- Peter Weber

Life Master

- Matthew Wilkins

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

Pair or Ind.	Percentage	Game
Rose Boot & Lowell Gist	70.00	Wed. Eve. Open (2/18)
Jackie Finn & Steve Johnson	75.50	Thurs. Aft. <1000 (3/12)
Lowell Gist & Barbara Thacker	72.02	Wed. Eve. Open (3/4)
Neville Abraham & Kamlesh Mahendru	70.83	Sat. Aft. 199er (3/14)
Ray April & Robert Durbrow	71.88	Sat. Aft. Open (3/28)

Next issue in June. In the meantime, information on clubhouse events (including the Memorial Game and Longest Day Marathon) will be posted in the clubhouse and on our website, fresnobridge.org.

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

Be on the lookout for a new Club Director

The Unit has a new Director! Recently completing two days of training and then passing the Director exam was Jim Craig (who?). Rumor has it he will debut as an active on-the-floor Director at the April Unit Game. Everybody come and see if he can make it through without a major incident. Oh, and someone be sure to bake a cake.





Rank Advancements

We had several advancements over the past two months.

Merrill Wolfe has ascended to the title of Club Master (20 mp).

Graham Kelly became a Gold Life Master (2500 mp).

Ken Johnson became a Sapphire Life Master (3500 mp)!

Congratulations! We will see you at the club working on your next step up the Masterpoints ladder!

The Tournament Trail

Capital City Regional (Sacramento) is Coming Up!

May 26-31, 2026

Lots of great bridge is scheduled for late May in Sacramento. Grab your favorite partner and head over to try for some Red and Gold points. If you are new to tournaments, ask anyone who has been to one anything you might have questions about. And be sure to take in as many of the lectures scheduled between rounds. They always have outstanding speakers to help you raise your game to the next level.

Meanwhile, there were a few sectional tournaments in the area that included some Unit 514 participation.

San Mateo Unit 498 Winter Sectional

Feb 21-22, 2026

At the Winter Sectional, Friends of the unit, Peggy Bradley and Celeste Brandt, wandered over to the Palo Alto Bridge Center where so many Units hold their tournaments, and were **second** in the Saturday AM 99er Pairs!

The Saturday Silver Rush Pairs included friends of the Unit, Hank Koransky and Jane Michaels, coming in **fourth!** Jane also was on a team that placed in the bracketed teams on Sunday, for a tournament total of 4.94 silver Masterpoints.

Other friends scoring some points in this sectional included: Jan Pffnner, Judith Gouvea, and Carol Reid.

Silicon Valley Unit 507 Spring Sectional

March 28-29, 2026

Unit 524 had a big turnout at the Spring Sectional held at the Palo Alto Bridge Center, including some big-time winners. The Saturday Silver Rush Pairs was **won** by



friends of the Unit, Hank Koransky and Jane Michaels, with a strong showing by friends Betsy Wagner and Jan Pfiffner coming in **fourth**.

At the same time, the Saturday **Open** Pairs was **won** by Richard Ross and Jim Craig. They took first in both Flight A and B. Jim was also on a team Sunday which won a few matches resulting in he and Richard finishing **third** and **fourth** for the entire tournament, taking down 16.25 and 15.47 silver masterpoints, respectively.

Overall, the Unit had at least the following members and friends scoring some of those treasured Silver points: Jim Craig, Richard Ross, Hank Koransky, Jane Michael, Betsy Wagner, Jan Pfiffner, Graham Kelly, Ken Johnson, Win Stone, Skip Pack, Ivan Goddard, Judith Gouvea, Carol Reid, Joanne McLoughlin and Seala Fletcher-Kelly.

What a great showing by our Unit!

Unit Games

Regular monthly Unit Games are generally held on the third Sunday of the month. Occasionally the Unit Game must be moved to a different weekend, and sometimes additional, special Unit Games are added on a different, but announced, basis. Usually, the location is the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center, but check any announcements. Starting time is 11:30 am (which also can vary for different/special events).

Results

February Unit Game in Morgan Hill (2/15/26)

The open/stratified game had 9 tables

N/S A&B– Norm Dow & Mark Moore

N/S C – Betsy Wagner & Judith Gouves

E/W A – Jim Craig & Ken Johnson

E/W B – Margot Kakalec & Melanie Kakalec

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

The 199er game had 4 1/2 tables

1st – Celeste Brandt & Peggy Bradley

2nd – Bonnie Grimm & Suzanne Fazio



March Unit Game in Morgan Hill (3/15/26)

The open/stratified game had 10 full tables

N/S A&B – Norm Dow & Ginny Arguello

N/S C – Hank Koransky & Jane Michaels

E/W A&B – Liega & Patrick Arnett

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

The 199er game had 4 tables

A&B1 – Hadi Eslambolchi & Chireen Zekanoski

C1 – Lisa Maack & Irene Popenhager

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) plays at the club house in Dunne Park (600 West Street, Hollister). Game time is 11:00 am most Tuesdays. The game is generally 3 - 6 tables, and open to all. If you plan to come and have not played there in a while, call Skip a day in advance to save your place (831-524-4883).

Winners over the past two months were:

Feb 17 A – Patrick & Liega Arnett

B – David Glashan & Geff Kinn

Feb 24 A –Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

B – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

Mar 3 A – Jim Craig & Win Stone

B – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

Mar 10 A & B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

Mar 17 A & B – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

Mar 24 A – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg





Mar 31 A – Jim Craig & Win Stone

B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

Apr 7 A – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

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 for participants.

Feb 19 (Open) A1 NS – Ken Johnson & Vinny McLoughlin

B1 NS – Patty Stone & Elsie Shaw

A1 EW – Jim Craig & Jonna Robinson

B1 EW – Dennis Rubida & Marianne Wucherpfennig

(<199) NS 1 – Pat Kelley & Ernesting Hicks

NS 2 – Geff Kinn & Dave Glashan

EW 1 – James & Kathy Krause

EW 2 – Shireen Zekanoski & Merrill Wolfe

Feb 26 (Open) A1 NS – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

B1 NS – Suzanne Proctor & Carol Nicoletti

A1 EW – Jim Craig & Ken Johnson

B1 EW – Jane Michaels & Hank Koransky

(<199) 1 – Julia Meader & Irene Popenhager

2 – Merrill Wolfe & Rebecca Sanchez

Mar 5 (Open) A1 NS – Jonna Robinson & Mary Legrand

B1/2 NS – Skip Pack & Barbara Earley

B1/2 NS – Ginny Arguello & Betsy Wagner

A1 EW – Jim Craig & Graham Kelly

B1 EW – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly





(<199) 1 – Bob Wiedlin & Irene Popenhager

2 – Maria Schalk & Shireen Zekanoski

Mar 12 (Open) N/S A – Mark Moore & Vinny McLoughlin

N/S B – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Carol Nicoletti

E/W A – Ken Johnson & Graham Kelly

E/W B – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner

(<199) 1 – Peggy Bradley & Celeste Brandt

2 – Bob Wiedlin & Merrill Wolfe

Mar 19 (Open) NS 1 – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

NS 2 – Ken Johnson & Vinny McLoughlin

EW 1 – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

EW 2 – Margot Kakalec & Melanie Kakalec

(<199) 1st – Jim & Kathy Krause

2nd – Peggy Bradley & Celeste Brandt

Mar 26 (Open) A 1/2NS – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

A 1/2NS – Ken Johnson & Jim Craig

B 1NS – Suzanne Proctor & Carol Nicoletti

C 1NS – Lesley Waltner & Lennart Naslund

A 1EW – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

B&C 1EW – Jane Michaels & Hank Koransky

(<199) 1 – Bob Wiedlin & Julia Meader

2 – Shireen Zekanoski & Patricia Jackson

Apr 2 (Open) N/S A – Ken Johnson & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

N/S B – Linda King & Patty Stone

E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

E/W B – Skip Pack & Barbara Earley





(<199) 1 – Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn
2 – Nancy Sampson & Barbar Miller

Apr 9 (Open) N/S 1 – Seala Fletcher Kelly & Carol Nicoletti
N/S 2 – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
E/W A 1 – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers
E/W B 1 – Dennis Rubida & Patrick Arnett

(<199) 1 – Jim & Kathy Krause
2 – Bob Wiedlin & Rebecca Sanchez

Full results are available on the Unit website, and ACBL "Live for Clubs," both with hand records (for Gilroy and some Hollister games).

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. Players are welcome from all over, including Florida, Colorado, and even Walnut Creek. But generally, it is made up of Unit 524 members and their friends. Usually, 3 to 8 tables of friendly competitors each day. Look for "Stones Game" at 1:25 (Pacific time) on BBO, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Marin By Mary Warner (508)



Our Spring Sectional in March was a terrific success. Thanks to all who attended to make it a wonderful showing for our unit! And, to those who generously baked and brought snacks - you made our unit proud. So grateful also to our amazing board and many unit members who volunteered their time, and to Andrea Ventriss for her tireless partnership desk skills! And of course, kudos to Shirley Ehrlich and Elaine Kitano for chairing the event

We had some local Mill Valley BIG winners at the recent St Louis NABC. Arti Bhargava, who is already a Grand National Champion, won the Women's Swiss Teams event, earning 79 Platinum points. And Bill Bailey won the Jacoby Swiss Teams event, a first NABC win for him. [Here is the link](#). Congratulations to them both!





And we have more who have earned a new rank. Keep up the good work and have fun!

Abraham Weitzberg	San Rafael	Junior Master
Heather Young	Mill Valley	Junior Master
Marylou Hayward	Novato	Sectional Master
David Berger	San Rafael	NABC Master
Jeanne Burke	Mill Valley	Junior Master
Joseph Nobrega	Mill Valley	Junior Master
Kara Roche	Mill Valley	Junior Master
Paula Riley	Mill Valley	Club Master
David Ganz	Novato	NABC Master
Pat Irwin	San Rafael	Ruby Life Master

So long, Farewell, We hate to see you go...! Yes, it's true... Our beloved director and teacher, Peggy Strong, has moved. She and her husband are taking Peggy's sister, Martha, back to Kansas, where Martha will live in an Assisted Living facility. Peggy and Leif have bought a house in Leawood, Kansas, a suburb on the state line of Kansas and Missouri. Peggy and Martha grew up in that area, so it is a "homecoming" of sorts with many relatives and friends from the past. A new life for the three of them.

Many of us are so grateful for the support and encouragement Peggy has given to grow and enhance our Marin Club for almost 40 years. A party was held on her last directing bridge day, March 20.

Accolades and best wishes were given to her by a packed room of her many admirers.

Peggy Lonergan was born in Kansas City, Missouri. She went to Catholic schools until the 10th grade. After graduating from high school, she started college at Kansas



Peggy Strong, March 20





State University where she studied sociology, psychology and art history. She went there for 2 years, met a guy, and decided to follow him when he headed to Harvard Law School. Being conservative and religious, her parents insisted that she get married first. She did, and became "Peggy Tatro". She enjoyed living in Boston and Cambridge. They lived in the Back Bay area of Boston for a while, then moved into student housing in Cambridge. While in Massachusetts Peggy did administrative work and continued her education at Harvard Extension.

After graduating from law school in 1977 her husband joined the firm Heller Ehrman in San Francisco. Neither of them had ever been in the Bay Area before then! They lived on Creek Lane in Mill Valley. Peggy finished her college education at UC Berkeley. She wanted to study business, but she couldn't get into the business school at Berkeley as a transfer student, so she majored in English. (She later went to Business School at USF and received a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.) The Tatro's split in 1990. While married they had two boys: Nick and Morley. Nick currently lives in San Rafael and Morley lives in Burbank.

Peggy took up bridge in the early 80's, starting with beginning lessons from Roy Hoppe and got serious about bridge very quickly. She started helping with the classes at the Crossley Bridge Club even before her divorce. When she started directing it was at the request of the owner of Rolling Hills Club in Novato, Warren Wertheimer. Warren loved bridge and wished to have a program at his tennis and fitness club. Peggy started a Monday limited game there which eventually became the popular Monday game in Terra Linda (which is currently online on BBO under virtual clubs 11:40).

Subsequently, Peggy "bought" a popular bridge club from Marin player Ed Yarling when he developed health problems and melded it into the program at Terra Linda. Peggy also did a stint directing for the IN Program (intermediate and novice games) for District 21 at nearby Regional tournaments. For many years she and Barbara Prior partnered on cruise ships offering bridge lessons and directing duplicate games for their private groups. Some of their itineraries included Alaska, the Panama Canal, New England and Canada, Spain and Portugal, etc. Peggy has also done a lot of traveling with Carole Liss. One memorable trip in 2015 was to Iran. She thought it was very interesting to see how excited the people were to see Americans given the standing the two governments have.

Several years after she got divorced Peggy started a relationship with a fellow bridge player, Ted Sachsman. They had a relationship that lasted for over 20 years. He was 26 years older than Peggy, and, unfortunately, eventually suffered from dementia. Despite their long close relationship, they had not lived together, but Peggy wanted to take care of him, so he then moved into her home. Ted died in 2015, several years after the onset of his disease. The year the pandemic started, 2020, Peggy met Leif Strong while playing golf. In 78 days, they got married and Peggy became "Strong"). Leif moved into Peggy's home in Terra Linda.





Peggy's advice to her fellow players is:

1. Be welcoming to new players as they help grow the game and increase game attendance.
2. Enjoy continuing to learn as bridge is a game for a lifetime!

** Thanks to Bob Chilvers for interviewing and writing this article.

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



February/March 2026

We had three advancements in rank in our unit this past two-month period. First – at the top of the masterpoint achievers – Lee Maddocks became a Diamond Life Master. Lee is the first active member of our unit to reach this rank. We are very lucky that we can compete against such a fine and pleasant player. Playing against topflight players is an excellent way to improve anyone's game. However, our beginning players also did well. Kathy Amos became a Junior Master and Cathie Peck moved up to Club Master. Undoubtedly this proves our club is healthy both at the top and in the novice ranks. Congratulations to you all!

The Monday group had four duplicate games and one Swiss team event. Kathy Amos and Judy Johnson won the first game, with Cathie Peck and Colleen Blackman winning the second event in February. In March, Jane Griffith/Sheila Carroll won on the second, with Sue Winter and Sandy Dieker coming in first on the sixteenth. The team game was paced by Colleen Blackman, Linda Ewing, Cathie Peck and Nance Simas.

Point leaders for the Monday group were: First, Jane Griffith, second, Sheila Carroll, with the two Lynns (Pont and Brooks) finishing third. Just behind them to tie for an honorable mention were Mike and Rose Epting along with Sue Winter. Monday players Kris Domitrovich and Sharon Schroeder won a 199er game in a Palo Alto sectional with an amazing 71% game. Well done, ladies!

In the Saturday game, high scores were 70% by Barbara and Jim Page who edged out Libby Longstreth and Jeanne Russo's 69.44% effort. Sharon Cole and Joyce Rudesill were next at 67.5% who squeaked by honorable mentions Libby Longstreth and Monday regular Christi Banuelos. Nice games, ladies (and Jim, of course)!

The B (readers will remember that A players are not eligible to win points in this game) leaders for Saturday morning were: Barbara Page at 5.47, Libby Longstreth with 2.63, Sharon Cole and Joyce Rudesill at 2.58, just ahead of honorable mention Jeanne Russo with 2.46. In C, Jim Page dominated at 5.47, Pam Rozycki followed with 2.92, while Marilyn McRitchie was third at 2.09.





The February Unit game was won by Ralph Jungwirth and Trelle Uhl at 63.19%. Garrard Marsh and Lorraine Bocks placed B, while Judy Remmers/Zhimin Linn captured C. In March, Sheela Wani and Ray Adams were first in A at 57.74% while Tom Au and Joe Castiglione were first in B & C.

High pointers in the open game were Ralph and Trelle with 69.05%, Dee Alexander/Gary Capwell at 67.79%, just a smidgen better than the 67.2% effort by Sheela Wani/Ray Adams.

High pointers for the two months were: A, Sheela Wani with 20.86, Frank Frohman at 19.91, and Ray Adams with 18.49. In B, Barbara Page swooped into first with 14.37, Libby Longstreth followed at 13.02, just edging Garrard Marsh who had 12.92. In C, Jim Page had a rousing 10.20, Tom Au was second with 5.31, while Mike and Rose Epting were third with 5.23. Ed Jeffers took honorable mention with 4.96.

Spring is here and the Golden State Regional is just around the corner at the end of May. Grab your favorite partner and make plans to go to Sacramento. See you at the table.

Monterey By Ed Schrenzel (530)

The Unit 530 Bridge Club is excited about hosting the upcoming **Monterey Cypress Open Sectional** on **May 23-24**. The tournament features stratified pairs on Saturday morning and afternoon, and both pairs and team play on Sunday. Bridge players at all levels from beginners to experts (and everyone in between!) are welcome. All games will be held at the Portuguese Hall at 950 Casanova Ave in Monterey. To register and for more information, please contact our tournament chair Ann Ahmadi at 831-620-5547, ann.ahmadi@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, the club is proud of recent improvements that were made to our bridge center, including new carpet, flooring, and chairs. The upgrades were made possible by generous donations from a group of players.

Our monthly Sunday Unit Lunch and Bridge events continued to be a great success. On **Sunday, March 8th**, 48 attendees feasted on delicious chicken enchiladas, stir-fry, stew, salads and desserts. According to Unit 530 Treasurer Ray Mok, the game netted a profit of \$857 of which \$97 were donations.

Leading North-South finishers were the pairs of Alan Hedegard - Leonard Chriss, and Mano Singham - Bob Dubroff. Top East-West pairs included Peter Gelfand & Yati Sahae and Sharon Larson & Ron Loiacono.

The next monthly Unit Game took place on Sunday, **April 12th**. Lunch featured a scrumptious taco bar featuring Seven No Trump Beef, Pass Out Chicken Verde, Two Over One Queso, Grand Slam Salsa, and Redouble Hot Sauce along with various





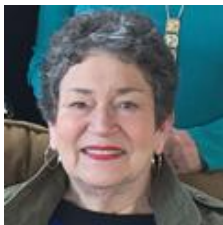
appetizers, sides, salads, and desserts. Attendees numbered 63 bridge players for the event. The club netted \$1,184 after expenses, including \$134 in cash donations.

The top North-South pairs were Tom & Ewan Eby, and Alan Hedegard & Leonard Chriss. Leading the way for East-West were Peter Gelfand & Mick Friedberg and Neil Joseph Smyth & Janet Tainty.

Our next Unit Game is scheduled for Sunday, **May 17th**. Lunch will be served at 12 noon with bridge following shortly thereafter. On most other Sundays, the club offers an open stratified game starting at 10 am.

The Monterey Bridge Center is located at 201B Calle del Oaks, Del Rey Oaks, CA; 831-747-1650.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512)



Greetings! I hope all of you are well and enjoying the strange spring weather we have experienced...an extraordinarily warm March and now April (chilly) showers. Maybe May will be what we think of as "normal," whatever that may be.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

For those of you who need "colored" points, STaC games are going to be held the first week of May. Make your dates now! **This is a Royal STaC**. Points issued will initially appear as Silver only. They will be converted to 1/4 each of Gold, Red, Black and Silver at the conclusion of the STaC. The Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday games in Sonoma as well as the Friday game in Napa offer opportunities to grab that gold!

Unit games will be run on May 15th at the Napa Game and June 16th, 17th, and 29th in Sonoma. We will celebrate The Longest Day on June 15th (Monday, in Sonoma) with a potluck and at the same time hand out The Helen Shanbron Ace of Clubs Award certificates for 2024 (we are a little behind!) and for 2025. And just to make the day really special, we will hold the Unit 512 Annual Meeting. Election of officers will complete the events of the day. If you are interested in holding an office or have a suggestion of an individual to hold office on the Unit Board, please contact me (Sigrid, price.sigrid@gmail.com).





The **Mini-McKenney** leaders for 2026 are as follows (with the points earned thus far):

Masterpoints:	Leader:	Second Place:
0-5	Isobel Lewis 1.60	Lisa Harb 1.15
5-20	Randy Lee 5.65	Gail Silverman 4.72
20-50	Jean Kilgore 13.14	Robert Vandenberg 9.21
50-100	Cheryl Marcillac 23.67	Kelley Thompson 11.03
100-200	Howard Bye-Torre 28.10	Cynthia Cope 14.77
200-300	David Mendel 87.09	Helen Wade 23.67
300-500	Lois Lourie 18.33	Sherry Shone 17.40
500-1000	Leandra Stewart 17.42	Helen Bohl 17.12
1000-1500	Lynn Dondero 41.60	Britt-Marie Eldred 34.67
1500-2500	Nancy Reede 53.37	Phil Shoemaker 50.30
2500-3500	Kathleen Smith 20.50	
3500-5000	Anita Pensler 27.21	Clyde Smith 20.50
5000-7500	Jeff Ferro 96.12	
7500-10,000	Tom Jacobson 70.91	Sigrid Price 53.53

The passing of some of our unit members was memorialized by Theila Smith and Lois Lourie. Theila writes of **Tina Yesson and Al Iapicca**, long-time members of our unit as follows:

I want to give you an update on two of our club members, Tina and Al. But before discussing the details, I want to tell you about a love story that I'm sure they would want me to share. Tina and Al met and fell in love at our bridge club. They were in their early 70s and given a second chance at a deep, meaningful, loving relationship! Both understood the significance since each lost their spouses in sudden, tragic accidents many years before meeting. They felt and acted as teenagers and openly expressed their love and commitment to each other. It was so easy to be around them and embrace their happiness. We were all elated for their newfound love. Both included their friends in their love of arts, opera, travel and adventure. Al cooked for friends and neighbors. They were truly blessed to have this time together. And this is how we should remember them.





Tina passed away this past Friday (late January) in the early morning. Al let a few friends know and asked us to notify others. Later the same day Tina died Al took his life. He had always hinted that he and Tina would go together, even mentioning the Thelma and Louise movie.

Lois Lourie writes of **Barbara Storrie**:

Last Thursday, (March 12th), our friend and bridge buddy, Barbara Storrie, passed away. Most of you know she had been struggling with COPD for many years, but did you know she never smoked? She was a victim of second-hand smoke. Both of her husbands smoked heavily, and it took its toll on her lungs.

Years of entertaining in Europe contributed to hours in smoke-filled environments. Barb lived life on her terms. "Doing it My Way" could have been Barbara's theme song. Frank Sinatra wasn't the only one doing it his way. Barb's trusty Toyota sported a decal "Bitch Power" and she often referred to herself as "Barbara, the Bitch." To know Barb, you know that was far from the truth.

Barb's last wish was for everyone to "tip a glass" - so we are planning to celebrate her life sometime in May. Date, time and details to be determined but most likely after bridge on a Monday or Wednesday, hopefully at the Sonoma Grill where Barb, Dolores and I tipped many a glass over the past 15 years.

Lois tells me that the gathering to remember and honor Barbara has been scheduled after bridge on Monday, May 11th at the Sonoma Grill. Details to follow.

My best to you all, hope your finesses are successful and that you bid a grand slam in the next thirty days!

Sigrid Price, President, Unit 512 price.sigrid@gmail.com 707-486-1517

Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)



Greetings from Palo Alto Unit 503!

I was recently listening to one of my favorite bridge podcasts, Sorry, Partner, which revisited an interview with Pakistani/British champion Zia Mahmood. When asked what he loves most about the game, Zia reflected that bridge is one of the rare pursuits that continues to offer passion, pleasure, and the chance to perform—even as we grow older. That sentiment resonates deeply with me, and I suspect with many of you as well. The joy of bridge doesn't fade; if anything, it endures and evolves, keeping our minds sharp and our competitive spirit alive. My husband likes to call me a "bridge evangelist," but the truth is, it's not a difficult sell—once you give yourself the chance, it's easy to become hooked. At Unit 503 we find many opportunities to lure you in—join us in this ever-entertaining pursuit.



Upcoming events for you at Palo Alto Bridge Center:

- **Daily Monday – Friday club games:** Bridge Center is open every weekday. [SignUp](#) **Free Post-mortem sessions** for certain Tuesday daytime and Wednesday evening club games.
- **Newcomer EZ games:** Relaxed and friendly 0-49er game with short pre-game lecture on Mondays at 11:15AM – register: [SignUp](#)
- **Monthly Swiss Team club games:** upcoming 2nd Mondays, May 11, June 8 at 11:30AM. [Swiss Team games](#) [SignUp](#)
- **Palo Alto Bridge Unit April Sectional:** 4 days of silver! Thursday April 23 – Sunday April 26 [Palo Alto April Sectional](#)
- **District 21 Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC):** win Royal (Gold/Silver/Red/Black) points at Palo Alto Bridge club games in the week of May 4 – 8. [SignUp](#)
- **Free Lecture Series by Debbie Rosenberg on “Forcing versus Non-Forcing Bids”:** Thursday, May 14 at 10:30AM. Stay to play in the 11:30AM club game: register for the game: [SignUp](#)
- **100% Gold Club Game - Club Championship Doubleheader:** 2 club games in 1 day! Saturday, June 6. 10:00AM game is 100% Gold; 2:30PM game is 100% Black. [SignUp](#)
- **Kathy Harper’s classes:** Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings – register: [Bridge classes](#)
- **Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY):** Casual Friday evenings: [SiVY website](#)
- **SAVE THE DATES – 6/24-6/28!** Palo Alto Bridge’s annual **Firecracker Open Sectional & NLM Regional** tournament will be held in June this year due to the Summer North American Bridge Championships being held earlier in July than usual.



Newer Players: Come and join many other newcomer players at our new relaxed and friendly **Newcomer EZ 0-49 games** on Mondays. This game is a great way to improve your bridge and gain duplicate bridge experience in a welcoming environment! We can help you find a partner. Please encourage your friends or family who could be interested in duplicate and need a little cajoling into the Bridge Center!





There will be a short pre-game lecture at 11:00AM and the duplicate game with 12-14 boards starts at 11:15AM to about 1:15PM. Helpers will be available to answer limited questions during the bidding. See attached flyer. [SignUp](#)

Additional Limited section games are held at the bridge center on Tuesdays at 10:45AM and Wednesday evenings at 6:45PM. [SignUp](#)



Palo Alto Bridge offers **monthly Swiss team** games for you to gain team game experience in a relaxed atmosphere. Next team club game is on Monday, May 13, at 11:30AM, where the boards are already shuffled and dealt with hand records. This is a great opportunity to practice for our upcoming Firecracker in June. If you need a partner, or help to be matched with another pair, let us know. [Swiss Team games](#) [SignUp](#)

At last month's game on March 9, congratulations to the winning team: **Bruce Luttrell - Janet Adamiak - Ping Chen - Stuart Whannel**. Honorable mention of the top strat C team coming 3rd overall: **Anna Ravenscroft - Judy Huckabay - Clive Surfleet - Suzanne Vuko**.



Palo Alto Bridge's 2026 tournament schedule kicks off with a **4-day Sectional** from Thursday April 23 to Sunday April 26, where you can earn silver points.

Call your partners, teammates and friends and come play!

Separate Silver Rush (under 750mps) and Open/Midflight sections. Special 0-99er game with 18 boards on Stupendous Saturday morning. [Palo Alto April Sectional](#)



Need those glitter masterpoints for your next rank? District 21's Sectional Tournament at the Clubs (**STaC**) week offers you the opportunity to win **Royal (Gold/Silver/Red/Black)** colored points in the comfort of Palo Alto Bridge Center at our club games in the week of May 4 – 8. [SignUp](#)



Forcing vs Non-Forcing Free Lecture

How often has your partner (not you, of course...) passed your Forcing bid and you missed a game? Ugh! How often have you agonized and discussed over whether your partner's bid is Forcing or Non-Forcing?

World Champion **Debbie Rosenberg** will provide you with guidance to limit those misunderstandings, excitable discussions and zero boards.

She will give a free lecture on this interesting and important topic "**Forcing versus Non-Forcing Bids**" on Thursday, May 14 at 10:30AM at Palo Alto Bridge Center.





This is part of our Free Lecture Series, which is funded by Peninsula Bridge Education Foundation [PBEF](#).

Why not stay and play in the 11:30AM club game? [SignUp](#)

Highlights:



Our **new EZ Bridge** games on Mondays, which started on March 9, have been very well attended! A huge thank-you to our wonderful team of volunteers: **Dana Shelley, Alex Narasin, Chris Chung, Phil Abrahamson, Gretchen Wyatt, Karen Gibson, Hilary Charlton, Alan Templeton, Ed Lechner, Dana Bisconti**. They help to welcome the next generation of duplicate bridge players in our community!

HELPING HAND



We had our largest turnout – 80 players - for our ever-popular **Pro-Am Pairs** event on March 12! ‘Amateurs’, players with less than 500 masterpoints, were paired with more experienced ‘Pros’.

Thank-you especially to our **40 Pro players** for coming to play and help our less experienced players improve their game. We also thank [PBEF](#) for funding this educational event.

Thank-you to our volunteers for organizing this: **H Paul Davis, Denise Pitsch, Phil Abrahamson, Liz Koh**.



We had 152 (mostly green!) players at our annual **St. Patrick’s Day** club game on March 17. This marks one of our largest club game special events with 18 tables in the 499er limited section and 20 tables in the Open. There was a drawing and 10 lucky players won prizes.

As always, a huge thank-you to our volunteers who made this possible: **Stephanie Youngquist, Debbie Carey, Marc Cervellino, Liz Koh, JoAnne Matthews** - for climbing up ladders to decorate the Bridge Center in glorious green, baking and





presenting green cookies, muffins, snacks, and organizing prizes for the drawings. Also thank you to Tuesday's club directors, **Prue Saunders** and **Will Watson**, for a great game and light lunch. Check out our Facebook page for more pics!

Debbie Rosenberg gave an excellent post-mortem of the bridge game on Zoom later in the evening.



Thank YOU all for participating in District 21's **Grand National Teams (GNTs)** Flight A and Flight B on the weekend of March 21-22 at Palo Alto Bridge Center. It was a great turnout (28 teams!) in support of our District, and a lot of good bridge! Congrats (and good luck) to the winning teams who will represent our District in the Summer NABC:

- **Flight B** champions team: **Peng Cheng, Xiaoyu Cheng, Michele Liu, Yin Lin.**
- Their opponents in the Finals were: **Shirley Shi, Allen Prohofsky, Music Li, Wei Chen.**
- **Flight A** champions team: **Bob Sanner, Scott Benson, Thomas Stern, Floyd McWilliams, Mukund Thapa, Bob Enenstein.**
- **Open Flight** champions team: **Ethan Liu, Ming Sheng, Tien-Chun Yang, Yanong Han.**

Thank you also to our volunteers for helping host these games at our Bridge Center: **Marc Cervellino, Debbie Carey, Lucy Ballard, Sólveig Kjartansdóttir, Will Watson, Liz Koh.**



Bridge Celebrity Adam Parrish gave an excellent celebrity lecture on April 11 on "Planning the Play in No Trump". If you miss this seminar or any of our other past celebrity online seminars, they are available for purchase [Celebrity Seminars](#). Thank you to our Celebrity Seminar Organizer, **Dede Barsotti**, for arranging these celebrity seminars.

A big thank-you to **Sandy Chen** and **Sid Chen** for donating a commercial freezer to Palo Alto Bridge Center. We appreciate their generosity.



Get involved in your community! Our events and activities are put together by our **volunteers**, and we want your help. Any little of your time would be appreciated! We need volunteers for marketing and publicity (photo-takers, storytellers, email blaster) and help organize a bridge tournament. Please let me know.



Accessorize your outfit at your next club game, tournament or bridge event. You can purchase your own customized name badge with our colorful Palo Alto Bridge logo - order yours online for \$14: [PA Name Badge Order](#)

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

Junior Master: **Justin Turcotte.**

Club Master: **Matt Jennings, Charles Krause.**

NABC Master: **Pamela Resser, Bill Somers.**

Advanced NABC Master: **Marilyn Press.**

Bronze Life Master: **Sharon Schafer.**

Silver Life Master: **Greg Gauthier.**

Ruby Life Master: **Anna Ravenscroft.**

Sapphire Life Master: **Alex Martelli, Mukund Thapa.**

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

Junior Master: **Deshan de Mel**

Sectional Master: **Mike Havern**

Advanced NABC Master: **Youfeng Wu**

Life Master: **Dimitry Goder**

Ruby Life Master: **Dick Herzog**

A very warm welcome to our **new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Larry Lowry, Rajeev Gupta, Rakesh Gupta, Jane McLaughlin, Manoj Thawani, Diane Weissman. Chris Chung, Paul Koontz, Caitlin Smallwood, Ivan Stukalov.**

Play, Laugh & Learn!





Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)

March was an amazing month for the Reno Bridge Club** of the Matthewson Bridge Center. The table count of 406 was an increase of 16% over last year. The operating profit was about \$1200 (usually we are underwater). This was the first month in Club history that we had over 400 tables! Thursdays, when we have an open and a 399er game, attracted nearly 100 players. On St. Patrick's Day the table count was 17 and the crowd was festive.



Hawaiian St. Patrick's Day?

On March 16, over 100 of our members came out to hear Robert Todd's Seminar on "Problem Opening Bids," with lessons for members at all ranks. This was Robert's fifth seminar at our club since the first one in 2022. Among the many great hand examples, solutions, and sage advice, one in particular has stuck with me: "Put your eyes and thoughts on the table, not in your hand." If only I could remember this every round! Also "Any hand with no Jacks (in your point count) is a good hand."

April has brought some more great days of bridge. On last Tuesday we had 24 tables in the Pro-Am team game – our most popular game. Our newest players continue to contribute hugely to our table count: the 49er game on Mondays has drawn 10-13 tables this year.

Over 50 players (including me) signed up for Jill Wallace's "Buff up your Bidding, Play and Defense" class, AKA Bridge 3. Jill's goal for advanced beginners and intermediate players alike is to push us up a level in our thinking and thus to move us



Bridge Three Class Photo: Class of Mrs. Wallace, Mr. Stone (both in front appropriately attired), and Mrs. Donovan (not pictured).

toward playing in the open games: to "deepen understanding and build confidence." With this in mind, she emphasized that we attend with a regular partner. Although I took Bridge 3 twice before, my goodness have I learned a lot, a sentiment echoed by my partner, Sandy Haslem and others. Jill was inspired by Larry Cohen's comment (from the bulletin): "My 25 years of teaching have taught me that most of my students never properly learned bidding Basic, there are gaps in their learning."





How does one teach over 50 students at one time? First of all, an excellent handbook with homework! Instruction was play focused: principles and examples succinctly presented, then hands provided to bid and play. Each table had hand records with suggested bidding to consult after we tried on our own. Sandy and I discovered that there were several important bidding issues for which we did not have clear agreements and/or understanding. And of course you need an instructor like Jill, and assistants like Brad and Jeffri who can command a room with humor!

Here are some notable individual achievements from last year.

Master Point Races 2025: Outstanding performers of our Unit:

2025 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs 2025 winners

Gordon Peterson* (0-5); Susan Peticolas *(5-20); Peter Hummel *(20-50); John Chism* (50-100); Pamella Miller* (100-200); Jerry Johnson (200-300); Patrick Campbell (300-500); Ron Haines (500-1000); Barbara Mickle* (1000-1500); Don Rogers* (1500-2500); Don Parsons* (2500-3500); Virginia Kellermeyer* (3500-5000); Gilbert Ramirez* (5000-7500); Charlotte Falk* (7500-10,000).

***Also winner of 2025 Mini-McKenney**

Other 2025 Mini-McKenney winners

Maryam Jabbari (200-300); Debra Ziegler (300-500); Donna Neff (500-1000)

Another name appeared among the 7500-10,000 top players: Bob Luebke. Sadly, we lost Bob this year. He was a wonderful member of our bridge community, a kind and wise leader, with a twinkle in his eye, who taught many of us.

Winners in the Ace of Virtual Clubs

In the lower-point ranks: Christine King, Linda Escher and Debbie King. Patricia Neumann (100-200); Timothy Chaney (200-300); Debra Ziegler (300-500); Jan Mahoney (500-1000); Richard Greenthal (1000-1500); Cathy Johnson (1500-2500); Don Parsons (2500-2500).

Several of our players figured in the top 10 of the District races as well. Barbara Mickle finished first in her category in the Ace of Clubs, as did Don Rogers, Donald Parsons (Susan Powell was second), Virginia Kellermeyer, Gary Nitzberg and Charlotte Falk. In the Mini-McKenney coming first in 0-5: Gordon Peterson.

**Unit 473 consists of the Reno Bridge Club.





San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)

Milestones

Jane McLaughlin has received her Sapphire Life Master.

The Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards are given to those who win the most black Masterpoints at the club level in a calendar year. The award was established in 1984. Find the 2025 [here](#).

Of course, the question I have is "Who is Helen Shanbrom?" Per the District 9 website, "In 2011, [the Ace of Clubs] award was renamed in honor of Grand Life Master Helen Shanbrom of Tamarac, Florida. Ms. Shanbrom was one of the most active and successful players in the ACBL for decades. She won the top category of the Ace of Clubs more times than any other member in ACBL history. Ms. Shanbrom passed away in 2013 at the age of 94." Not to be confused with the Helen Shanbrom who was born in Rochester, NY in 1926, moved to California, and helped establish the Orange County Philharmonic Society.

The Mini-McKenney Award is given to players who win points at clubs and tournaments (tournament points are not included in the Ace of Clubs Awards). It was established in 1974. The award was named after William E. McKenney, the first executive secretary of the ACBL. The fact that it is called the "Mini"-McKenney has nothing to do with the Austin Powers franchise. According to a June 5, 1983, article in the New York Times, the ACBL retired the McKenney trophy for the player earning the most Masterpoints (MP) in a calendar year and replaced it with the "Barry Crane 500" listing the top 500 MP players of the year (you kids can do a Google search on Barry Crane). So, to distinguish the award for players earning points locally, the award is now called the "Mini-McKenney."

Find the list of those getting the Mini-McKenney for 2025 can be found at this [link](#).

We had some Unit 506 people who finished in the **Top 25 nationally** in various categories of the Mini-McKenney, Ace of Virtual Clubs and 2025 Masterpoint Races.

Mini-McKenney

100-200 Bracket: 19th, Lee Chen, 203 MP

1000-1500 Bracket: 9th, Stella Wan, 392 MP & 21st, Shazia Makhdumi, 339 MP

Ace of Virtual Clubs

100-200 Bracket: 4th, Lee Chen, 167 MP



2025 MP Race Winners

Junior Category: 12th, Stella Wan, 392 MP

Unit Games

Unit 506 had their first unit game of the year on February 28th. We had a tremendous turnout of 20.5 tables (13.5 in the Open and 7 in the 499er - a great turnout on its own). In the Open game, Gary Porter & David Strauss finished first North/South, and Jim Wallace & Kim Fanady finished first East/West and first overall. Find the complete results [here](#).

In the 499er game, Diane Ross and Kathleen King finished first N/S and first overall. David Owen and Alan Blackwood came in first E/W. Find complete results [here](#).

On March 25th, the first ACBL-wide Charity game of the year was played throughout the country. Congratulations to Paul Melodia and his partner at the Sunset Bridge Club for coming in 3rd in the District 21 standings with a 63.33% and 8.44 MP.

Unit 506 had their second unit game of the year on March 28th. The attendance was smaller with only 15.5 tables (11.5 in the Open game and 4 in the 499er game). Attendance was light because of No Kings activities that day. Christian Goetze and Denny Arar finished first N/S, but as in February, the overall winner was Rob Balas and Mark McCarthy, E/W. Find complete results [here](#).

In the 499er section, Paul Blain and Andrew Bye came in first N/S, and Jeff Cohen and Katherine Young finished first E/W. Find complete results [here](#).

The third unit game of the year was held on Saturday, April 11 with a half table more than had been there in March. Eleven tables (thanks to Beverly Weiss and Christian Goetze filling in that half table) were in the Open Game while 5 tables participated in the 499er game. Tom McKelvey and Kim Fanady finished first N/S and overall and Ann Derbes and Bob Schwab finished first E/W. Find complete results [here](#).

Patrick Rosenkjar and Diane Ross finished first N/S and overall in the 499er game. Andrew Bye and Paul Blain came in first E/W. Find complete results [here](#).

NABC – St. Louis

Among the unit games, the NABC was held in St. Louis, MO, ironically home of the Chess Hall of Fame. (My apologies to David Straus as there will be no recap of the Sinquefeld Cup.)

In the Lebharr IMP Pairs (two qualifying rounds and two final sessions), Andrew Hoskins of Burlingame & Ankur Rathi (who earned 68.76 MP over the course of the St. Louis NABC) of San Francisco came in 6th and Edward Nagy of Danville, CA and Mark Ralph of San Francisco came in 16th. The trophy for this tournament was donated in





1948 by Bertram Lebhar, Jr. in memory of his wife, Evelyn. Bertram Lebhar, Jr. was born in New York in 1907. He was one of the first radio broadcasters for the New York Rangers hockey team. He held that position from 1939 until 1954. Lebhar also did play-by-play recreations with Marty Glick of the Brooklyn Dodgers (we can't all be perfect). Nationally, Lebhar won the Springold in 1940 and the Mixed Board-A-Match in 1946. As treasurer of the ACBL from 1945-1947, he introduced the practice of charging clubs for the right to issue Masterpoints (now we know who to blame, LOL). Bertram Lebhar was the founder of the Greater New York Bridge Association.

Two participants from Europe paired with San Franciscans to finish in the Top 25 of the NABC+ Open Pairs. Irene Barconi of Paris, France and Mike Rippey of San Francisco came in 3rd and Johan Saefsten of Uppsala, Sweden paired with Stella Wan of The City to come in 25th. Stella and Johan also finished 17th in the Rockwell Mixed Pairs as well as 32nd in the Silodor Open Pairs.

Mike Rippey was the only San Franciscan and American on an international team composed of him teamed with Piotr Marcinowski, Wroclaw Poland; Irene Baroni, Paris 75015 France; Leonardo Cima - Federico Porta Tadolini, Roma Italy; and Wojciech Bak, Warsaw Poland. That team came in 2nd for the Jacoby Open Swiss Teams. A special shout-out to William Bailey of Mill Valley who was on the first-place team.

Coming in 1st in the first Sunday Afternoon Side Pairs were Charles Riffle of Emerald Hills, CA, and Douglas Grant of San Francisco. The same pair finished first in the Monday Afternoon Side Pairs. In fact, Charles and Douglas came in first for the Sunday-Tuesday Side Pair Series. They also went on to win the NABC 0-3000 Pairs and were 2nd in the Saturday Mid-Flight Pairs. It should be no surprise that Charles and Daniel had the one of the highest Masterpoint totals earned by San Franciscans in St. Louis with 106.48 MP each. Mike Rippey appears to have led all San Franciscans with 178.26 MP.

Charles and Douglas continued their success by pairing with Philip and Jennifer Kuhn of San Mateo. (Interesting note: Jennifer headed to St. Louis as soon as she finished directing our February Unit Game).

Eking out a victory by one match point, James Coke, Shingle Springs CA; Frank Grzegorzewski, Erie PA; Ashish Gupta, Sacramento CA; and Liam King, San Francisco CA won the 2nd Thursday Bracket B Teams. I assume that Zeus was there kibbitzing and lending moral support.

Andrew Eidelhoch and Nathan Chow, both of San Francisco, took first in the 2nd Friday Afternoon Side Pairs.

Now, you didn't think I'd end this article without telling you more about Rockwell, Silodor, and Jacoby mentioned above, did you?

The Rockwell Mixed Pairs is named after Helen Rockwell who donated the trophy in 1946.





An [article](#) on the ACBL website describes Helen as the consummate bridge player indicating her two loves were bridge and food. Helen was also the author of a couple of cookbooks.

Sidney Silodor & Helen Sobel are one of five pairs to have won the Rockwell Trophy twice, in 1955 and 1956. Silodor had previously won with Edith Rosenbloom in 1941. Among other accomplishments by Mr. Silodor is being on the first winning team of the Bermuda Bowl in 1950. Silodor is 6th on the all-time list of NABC with 34 titles. The Silodor Open Pairs is a four-session event—two qualifying rounds and two final rounds.

Last, but certainly not least, the Jacoby Open Swiss is another four-session event (two qualifying sessions and two final sessions) at the Spring NABC. It is named for Oswald Jacoby and his son Jim. Yes, these are the Jacobys known for Jacoby transfers and Jacoby 2NT among other conventions and innovations. Oswald won his first tournament in 1929 and his last in 1983, a year before he died. He was the first player to accumulate 1000 MP in a year and 10,000 in a lifetime.

San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



Happy Spring from Unit 498!

We're feeling lots of fresh energy in our Unit and we hope you'll join us if you're in the neighborhood.

Spring Non Life Master Sectional

On Saturday April 18 at The Villa in San Mateo, we will host a sectional for those with 750 or fewer masterpoints and who are not yet Life Masters. This is a great way to play competitive bridge with players at your level and earn Silver points. At 10 am, two sections are offered: 0-200 or 0-750 masterpoints. At the 2:30 pm session, all players with 0-750 masterpoints will compete together. You can play either or both sessions. To sign up and get more information, go to www.unit498.com/tournaments.

Wednesday Morning 199er Game

Jennifer Kuhn's Wednesday morning lesson and in-person game is geared towards players with fewer than 199 masterpoints. The lesson starts at 9:45 am with the game starting at 10:15 am. Play will typically go until 12:45 pm. Changing the game to a 199er game allows Jenny to award more masterpoints, and the additional time accommodates 18 boards. More time, more fun!

Do What You Love To End ALZ, 2026

There's a new name for what used to be called our Longest Day fundraising efforts. While the name has changed, our commitment remains the same — to raise funds and awareness for the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association®.





Your fundraising and donations will play an important role in improving the lives of people living with Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers.

In 2025 we raised more than \$41,000, placing Unit 498 as one of the top Longest Day ACBL fundraisers in the state, nation, and internationally. This year is going to be another great way to play bridge and enjoy getting to know others in our bridge community.

On behalf of our 2026 committee, we invite you to play bridge and make a difference! And we invite you to donate and invite others you know to donate as well.

Please visit our "Do What you Love to End ALZ" [fundraising page](#) and join our team!

Swiss Teams And Awards Recognition

We celebrated Unit 498's 2025 winners of the Mini McKenney, Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs, and Virtual Ace of Clubs awards at our Swiss teams game on March 18th. We had a very close Swiss game with the team of Doug Seifert, Chuck Simmons, Carl Ebeling, and Debra Martinez squeezing out a win over Joseph Hoagland, Michael Hoagland, Aster Wu, and Mary Bates. Fun for all who joined and congratulations to our 2025 club winners!



Please visit our Unit 498 website (www.unit498.com) for more news and registration info for our events, as well as info on new members, rank advancements, and results and schedules for our Unit and Club Games.

Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)



March - April 2026

Wow we sure started out with a heat wave this March. I'm happy to live at the beach, it was much cooler here in Santa Cruz. Now, thunderstorms, crazy weather this year.

We have New Members to welcome:

Gustavo Guimaraes

Valmarie Levine





We have several Members to Honor with new Achievements:

New Junior Masters

- Susan Schwartz
- Charlotte Keeley

New Club Masters

- Peter Emanuel
- Lawrence Frank

New Sectional Masters

- Catherine Foy
- Cindy Sedey

New Regional Master

- Nancy Pringle

New Silver Life Master

- John Wesolowski

New Ruby Life Master

- Alan Chase

2/1/26 to 4/10/26 -- 70% Games

Lesley Xu - Matthew Nathanson	2/4	70.6%
Cindy Sedey - Larry McAdams	3/4	71.67%
Andrew Calciano - Marilyn Calciano	3/4	70.38%
Georgianna Spinazze - Kathy Traback	3/18	70.7%
Angie Millslagle - Mary Graves	3/28	71.43%



Rising Stars Sectional a BIG success

Many thanks to Farol Henderson and Jacci Sterling, chairperson and co-chairperson for putting on a fantastic sectional! Many thanks to Cindy Sedey and her husband Larry McAdams spearheading the sandwiches order and pick up. Gratitude for those who provided snacks and appetizers, assisted in set up and clean up.

Results are available at the [ACBL Website](#). **Congratulations to ALL**





St. Patrick's Day Celebration Game 3/18/26

The Bridge Center provided Corned Beef prepared by committee members of the Events Committee with attendees adding side dishes and desserts to the fare. Seventeen pairs enjoyed an evening of **Fun, Food and Bridge**.



Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Maxine Reagh (509)



Unit 509 Spring Sectional 2026

Our Spring Sectional in Petaluma March 7 and 8 was a success in every way, except financially. Everything went smoothly and people enjoyed the "trimmings"- great all-day snacks and beverages, great sandwich options for Saturday's lunch and another free, full buffet of delicious salads and croissant sandwiches provided by Jackie Ortiz. Director Lynn Yokel kept the pace going and assured that all went smoothly according to each day's schedule.

Many, many people contributed snacks, insuring that there was always something to munch on throughout the morning and afternoon and many hands helped to put the tables and chairs away at the end for a speedy clean-up. For this, we are grateful. And Kathy Venton made many people happy by making partnerships for both pairs and teams.



Unit 509 Spring Sectional March 7 & 8, 2026



The big Unit 509 winners on Saturday Open Pairs were **Nancy Gunn and Bob Klein**, coming in first for 15.81 silver points. In second place were **David Mendel and James Reed**, winning 11.86 silver.





Team Game results for Sunday were:

A, AX (out of 8 teams)

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Bob Klein, Erwin Linzer, Nancy Gunn, Sarita Mathiasen | 9.63 |
| 2. Lynn Blumenthal, Kimberly Fanaday, Sigrid Price, Peter Lit | 7.22 |
| 3. Tony Jackson, Patricia Hertz, John Oswald, Kathy Venton | 5.12 |

B/C/D (out of 17 teams)

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Jeff Sacher, Nancy Rude, Hans van Boldrik, Roy Redlich | 5.57 |
| 2. John Shribbs, Patricia Shribbs, Carol Morse, Andy Andrews, Lynn Dondero | 4.18 |
| 4. Lori Kiefer, Philip Wilner, Laurie Vree, Judy Duport | 2.50 |

Marin Sectional Results

Unit 509 players had a strong showing at the Marin Sectional March 13 and 14. In Open Pairs on Saturday, **Lynn Blumenthal** and **Crispin Barrere** placed first for 17.53 silver points and **Nancy Gunn** and **Bob Klein** placed second for 13.15 silver points.

Sunday Bracketed Teams:

First place in Bracket 1

Larry Spanier, Tom Jacobsen, James Reed, Kate Hill 14.81

First place in Bracket 2

Tony Jackson, Patricia Hertz, Jeff Sacher, David Mendel 7.70

Third place in Bracket 2

Gerald Besses, Cyrus Ansari, Andy Andrews, Carol Morse 4.33

First place in Bracket 3

Conrad Larkin, Bob Goetzinger, Karen Rocco, James Wallace 4.64

Representing Unit 509 at the NABC In St. Louis!

Kate Hill, Evelyn Holtz and Sara Rothmuller went to the Nationals in St. Louis in March. They love those platinum points and they each got a good amount of 'em. Evelyn was thrilled to have qualified for the Silidor Pairs. She liked the St.Louis BBQ. Despite tornado warnings, and a long walk to the playing area, she said it was loads of fun. Sara commented that she like hearing so many languages being spoken, indicating an international presence. Unfortunately for her, her partner was unable to play so she played with new partners. And she came home with Covid.





Kim Fusch, New Life Master!!

A big CONGRATULATIONS is in order for **Kim Fusch** who just became a Bronze Life Master, skipping over Life Master. Though she has had well over 500 points for a couple of years, she needed the gold points to make it to Life Master.

It was an online BBO ACBL Regional Gold Rush game on March 30 that put her over the finish line. Just 1.6 points shy of her goal, she came in 3rd out of 75 people and earned 2.45 gold points.

The BBO Centennial Gold Tournament in December gave her another opportunity for gold. Day after day, Kim kept winning gold points with two online partners, one who lives in Maryland and another in Montana. Unit 509 partners Jeff Sachar and Jeremy Brott also helped Kim win online gold. Kim cannot travel to national tournaments so these online opportunities are well, golden!

Kim began playing bridge in 2010 and, at her very first face-to-face game, she won her first gold points - 0.03 of `em!



Big Games!!

Mark Hersko and Jacki Ortiz got a 71.77% game on BBO and placed first out of 122 pairs on Feb.28.

Evelyn Holtz and Jacki Ortiz got a 72% game on BBO and placed first out of 135 pairs on March 31.

Rank Changes

- Douglas Schrock is a Regional Master
- Kim Fusch, Life Master, Bronze Life Master
- Jane De Briyn is a Ruby Life Master
- Laurie Vree is an Advanced NABC Master
- Patricia Dunbar is a Bronze Life Master

Award Winners

The winners of the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards have been apprised of their status and have received their Free Play Coupons. Their names will appear in the June issue of the Heart of the District and the awards ceremony in their honor will occur after the lesson at our Unit Game on Saturday, May 16 in Petaluma.





However, I must mention that **Jeff Sachar** got recognition in the April Bridge Bulletin for being the top in the nation for accumulating 189 points in the 300-500 category in the Mini-McKenney contest. He was second in the nation in the Ace of Clubs contest in the same category.

Corrick Brown

“Corrick Brown, the longtime conductor who transformed the Santa Rosa Symphony from a modest community ensemble into a fully professional orchestra and became a central figure in the cultural life of Sonoma County, died at his home in Santa Rosa. He was 95.” These words are taken from an obituary written about a very interesting man that appeared in the Press Democrat on March 29. Corrick’s many accomplishments and talents, combined with his very outgoing, friendly personality, made him a gem in the community. He played bridge in Santa Rosa and Sonoma and, in recent years, played frequently online. He had over 2,500 masterpoints



Patricia Frenaye

April 22, 1926-March 16, 2026

Patricia Congdon Frenaye attended Bradford Jr College in Massachusetts, Berkeley Secretarial School in New Jersey, and Rutgers University in New Jersey. She worked for the State of California for 20 years. She was an incredibly fast typist, diligent and reliable in work and in life.



Patricia achieved Gold Life Master status in the American Contract Bridge League and is remembered for her excellent bridge playing. She also loved gardening, and her roses were divine. Patricia played for many years in Sonoma and at the Bridge Gallery.

Patricia died peacefully in her home of natural causes one month shy of 100 years. She had hoped to reach that goal because of her competitive nature.

Friend Betty Sather comments that she learned a lot of bridge from Patricia when she, Barbara Tufts and Helene Gay played as a foursome. Betty remembers great chats about tennis, classical music and opera.

Patricia was born in New Jersey on April 22, 1926. Margaret Cecelia Koeniger was her mother and Arthur Stanley Congdon was her father. She is predeceased by her brothers, Arthur Stanley Congdon Jr, Douglas Congdon, and Donald J Congdon. She was formerly married to William E Frenaye, deceased. She is survived by daughter Polly Frenaye-Hutcheson, son Thomas W Frenaye, and grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.





Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



My last Unit column was composed almost 8 weeks ago. In the meantime, our Unit held a sectional and the ACBL held a NABC.

Let's look forward before looking back. Unit 507 has scheduled its annual membership meeting, lunch, and pairs game for Saturday, June 20, at the site of our regular Wednesday games. Save the date. Details will be provided on our website. Speaking of the website, have you noticed a relatively new feature? There is a separate box that lists upcoming special games.

If you are interested in giving back to bridge by serving on the Unit 507 Board of Directors, please let one me or another Director listed on our website know. Directors serve two-year terms and half the terms end every year. While most of the current Directors are willing to continue in our positions, Judy Fisher has said she won't seek re-election. She has served on the Board longer than any other current Director. She was on the Board in November 1985 according to the oldest meeting notes I have as Unit Secretary. (Speaking of Unit Board meeting notes, my collection is incomplete, with gaps in early 1989 and more recently between July 1995 and June 1999. If you have copies of these notes, I'd like to hear from you.)

Now looking back to the more recent past, at the nationals in St. Louis, in NABC events: Peter Friedland was second in the Silver Ribbon Pairs; in the North American Pairs events, Sriram Ganesan was first in Flight A, Milind Girkar & Shailesh Sampat were sixth in Flight C, and Rick Jasper & John Wachsmann had a section top in Flight B; in the IMP Pairs, Xin Ge was 3rd and Arif Janjua was 8th. Section tops also went to Xin Ge in the Mixed Pairs and Jung Hu and Michele Liu (playing with other partners) in the Women's Pairs.

In regional events at the NABC, Xin Ge's team won in a top flight Swiss, Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean's team was 1st in Bracket 2 of a knockout, and Arif Janjua's team tied for 1st in Bracket 1 of a bracketed teams event. Section tops went to Michael Fleisher & Arif Janjua and Murat Alaybeyi in top-flight pairs, Murat again in open pairs; Richard Reitman in fast pairs, and Li Zhang in mid-flight pairs.

At a San Diego regional, Anne Wilson's team won Bracket 3. Avi Mukherjee had a stratification ("strat") top in an open pairs game.

At the recent Tucson regional, Lynn Shannon & John Miller scooped up masterpoints by the bucket, winning three Bracket 1 team events with different teammates and placing second in another one to become the top total masterpoint winners in the tournament.

In District 21's Grand National Teams competition, Floyd McWilliams' team was first in flight A, and first in flight B were Peng & Xiaoyu Cheng, Michele Liu & Yin Lin.





At our Unit 507 spring sectional, attendance was up dramatically from last fall. Our new sectional coordinator, Linda Rocha, diligently organized volunteers to make the tournament run more smoothly. In the under-100 pairs, Surendra Adodra had a strat top. Henry Koransky & Jane Michaels won the silver rush pairs while Stuart Whannel had a section top. In the open pairs, section tops were earned by Michael Fleisher & Norman Marks, Elenalani Lam, and Frank Xie. Sriram Ganesan's team won bracket 1.

In earlier sectionals, Michael Callahan had a strat top in open pairs in Santa Rosa/Petaluma. Weilong Shen had strat top in open pairs in Marin. Jan Piffner & Kathy Vita placed 1st in the under-750 pairs in Santa Cruz.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Christopher Chen, Gigi Chu, Nivedita More, Dean Zhou (Junior); Ann Leishman, Joann Zimmerman (Club); Louise Kirkbride (Sectional); Rakesh Gupta, Pat Jeffries, Yin Lin (Regional); Yannie Zhao (NABC Master); Amit Garg (Advanced NABC); Pamela Meckenstock (Bronze Life); Melanie Kakalec (Ruby Life); Michael Bodell (Diamond Life). Keep in mind this list collects the results from the past two months due to this newsletter's publication schedule.

If you haven't read your name in this column, get out and play some duplicate bridge and give me a reason to mention you. Apart from winning masterpoints, bridge offers social connections as our District President has described in his column elsewhere in this newsletter.

Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



April showers have indeed arrived in our Unit...but with the rapidly changing weather our players can't anticipate how warm or cool to dress resulting in ongoing disagreements about the heat, A/C and circulation fans at the Stockton Club. But attempts are made to make everyone comfortable. Extra coats and wraps are available that have been hanging on wall hooks unclaimed for years. And the excess banquet chairs are gone so things feel a little more roomy. Come play in person and enjoy the hospitality. The club is even considering new flooring and some wall insulation to improve noise reduction.

Our Webmaster, Sue Kroning, is enjoying a safari in South Africa so didn't have a chance to write about the Mountain Club news, but there are some nice photos on our website of the lovely 60th wedding anniversary party (February 21) of long-time Mountain Club members Dana and Tim Davis. We also congratulate David McGee on becoming a Bronze Life Master! Several more players are getting really close to a significant rank change, but it looks like we must wait until the next issue to announce.

Glo Williams was sidelined at the end of March but is recovering at home and expected to return imminently to get those last fractions needed for Ruby. Debbie DeZarn and David Clement (partnering with his mom Sherrie Barakatt) vied for their





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

last few needed silver at the Central Coast (Arroyo Grande) Sectional this month. Each got a couple but still not enough...Sue Vogtlin filled out the team and of course put the rest of us in a higher bracket. The sectional was chaired by former Unit 510 members, Mary and Michael Wells, and appeared to be very successful!

Royal STaC week is coming May 4-10 and games that week will award a mixture of pigmented points including $\frac{1}{4}$ silver points. And the Monday game in Stockton will include lunch! Following that, games May 18-22 will pay winners $\frac{1}{4}$ gold points. So, plan to play often during those special games if you need "colors" for your next rank.

For those who missed it, the February District Dispatch included a blurb written by Earl Jones upon achieving NABC Master. Here is a [link](#) and Earl is on page 3.

Happy Spring to everyone and hope to see you at the bridge table.

