



Contents

Diablo Valley By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook (499)	2
Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)	2
Gilroy/Morgan Hill/Hollister By Jim Craig (524)	5
Marin By Mary Warner (508)	14
Modesto By Ray Adams (529).....	18
Monterey By Ed Schrenzel (530)	19
Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512).....	20
Palo Alto By David Merenbach (503)	22
Reno By Martha Hildreth (473).....	24
San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)	25
San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498).....	29
Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)	30
Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Maxine Reagh (509)	32
Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)	38
Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510).....	40



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

BOO-BOO

I want to scare you!!!! Yes, we're not supposed to open our doors to strangers, yet we continue this old custom. Why and how did it start?

Halloween originated from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of summer, the beginning of the new year, and the time when the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead was blurred. Christianity later incorporated these pagan traditions by establishing **All Saints' Day** (November 1) and **All Souls' Day** (November 2). The celebration evolved with Irish and other European immigrants bringing traditions, like costumes, to America. They blended with local customs to create the modern holiday of Halloween with its unique traditions of trick-or-treating, costumes, and carved pumpkins. *Got an idea*-- Eat your candy and maybe share leftovers with bridge friends. We all love chocolate!

How are you doing? Besides chowing down candy. As we get more mature, we need people too...It really helps to socialize and train our brains. Please check out our web site for the latest updates for upcoming sectionals and unit games. There's a new class catering to beginner players, check out--Unit499.com, click it, you'll like it!

Important--Please treasure your partner. I speak from experience. My partner had to stop playing for personal issues. As we begin the journey of becoming a Life Master, there's self-satisfaction, and camaraderie at the tables.

Salute to Bridge,

Lisa Assoni, ShortCut Cook (™)

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello Everyone! It seems like October is speeding on by—Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas all seem so close. Yet, the Mentoring game in September and the Fall sectional at the beginning of this month seem like a long time ago. Hope I remember enough from the two events.

Past Events

Mentoring Game on September 20th: Just three tables for the Mentoring Game, it was unfortunate that we did not have more of a turnout. It went well, and everyone (Mentors and Mentees) seemed to have enjoyed participating. Thanks to our three mentors: Rose Boot, Lowell Gist, and Bill Glass. Hope you will join us at a future event.



Fresno Fall Sectional (October 3rd & 4th): This Sectional was a Local Sectional, meaning that I was directing the event. Attendance was a little down from last year, but we still had nice games going for each session.

Sat Morning Open side 8 tables
199er side 3.5 tables

Sat Afternoon Open side 7 tables

Sun Morning Open side 7 tables

Sun Afternoon Open side 7 tables

Unfortunately, we did not have enough attendance to have 499er games for the sessions where that was an option. For those of you with less than 500 points who are fearful of coming out and having to play on the Open side, realize that if you talk it up among the people in your games, you probably could generate the three tables needed to stay in a separate section. Keep that in mind when we have our February sectional (Fresno Winter Sectional).

We had 36 members winning masterpoints. Congratulations to the Unit 522 winners: Lowell Gist (President's Award winner for most masterpoints won) and Vinod Balasa (top 99er Award winner). Results from games and the overall masterpoint winners can be found [here](#).

Thanks to all who donated cash or food to keep us well fed during the game. Special thanks to Jackie Finn for helping with serving lunch and cleaning up on Saturday. Thanks also to Steve Johnson for being our partnership chair and for his hard work straightening the clubhouse and being sure coffee and tea were always available. Also, thanks to many, many other people that I am not going to attempt to list as I know I will forget someone if I did. So, we will just leave it at "Thanks to all of you, you are amazing!"

Upcoming Events

2over1 Lessons: There is a rumor that these lessons will be coming to our clubhouse again on two Sundays in November. This time Matthew Wilkins & Laura Da Costa will be providing the lessons. I am calling it a rumor right now only because Matt and I need to see if we can get it all planned out in time. If it occurs in November, it is likely to be the 15th and 22nd.

Royal STaC: The Royal Sectional Tournament at Clubs is coming up. It will be November 16th – 22nd. So far, we plan to have this STaC game on our regular Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday games. Royal STaCs pay out 25% Gold, 25% Red, 25% Silver, and 25% Black points.





Annual Christmas Party/General Meeting: The party/game/general meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th. More on it will be posted at the clubhouse.

Winter Sectional in 2027: Flyers are not available yet, as I still need to get the schedule and flyer approved. We are planning for a Friday through Sunday schedule for February 19-21. Note: that this is not what we normally do for this tournament, but our normal President's Day weekend has not only Valentines Day in the middle of it (we are used to that), but it also has a Super Bowl too. We decided not to deal with that conflict.

Members News

Change of Rankings: New rankings for August & September 2026

Sectional Master

- Vinod Balasa

Club Masters

- Ivy Darden
- Norma Kaser

70% Games: For the first time in a long time, we have a very large set of these special games, 70% and above

Pair	Percentage	Game
Margot Cegielski & Laura Da Costa	71	Wed. Eve. Open Game (8/19)
Norma Kaser	73.81	Fri. Aft. Individ. 199er (9/11)
Kamlesh Mahendru & Neville Abraham	72	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (9/19)
Mary & Tom Warner	72	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (9/19)
Ann Derwin & Kim Morris	70.37	Mon. Aft. Open Game (9/21)
Victor Greener & Matthew Wilkins	71.00	Wed. Eve. Open Game (9/30)
Lowell Gist & Matthew Wilkins	70.54	Sat Aft. Fall Sectional (10/3)
Mary Gullo & Doris Myers	70.83	Tues. Aft. 750 Game (10/06)
Linda Arredondo	72.22	Fri. Aft. Individ. 199er (10/09)
Ray April & Robert Durbrow	70.83	Sat. Aft. Open Game (10/10)
Pat Heckathorn	80.95	Fri. Aft. Individ. 199er (10/16)
Mary & Tom Warner	70.5	Thurs. Aft. 1000 Game (10/22)





Mary Lou Pease

It is with great sadness that we report on the loss of our good friend Mary Lou Pease on August 31st. Mary Lou participated in all aspects of the club: Board of Directors, teacher, club owner and director, and player. She was a great cheerleader for the club, even arranging publicity for some of our events like the Longest Day. Among the things I will miss are her smiling face, her ability to dress in style for every holiday (and always with bling), her chili (loved that chili), and her willingness to help with any event until her strength finally didn't allow her that level of participation. We will miss you, Mary Lou.



Keep up with the latest news and all other events at the clubhouse on our website: fresnobridge.org.

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

Holiday Schedule for Clubs

This is the time of year when we need to watch the calendar and circle dates for cancelations, or for extra special games. Some games that will certainly be canceled include:

- Thursday, November 26: No Gilroy game (Thanksgiving)
- Tuesdays, December 22 & 29: No Hollister games
- Thursdays, December 24 & 31: No Gilroy game (room closed for maintenance)
- Friday, December 25: Stone's online game (BBO) canceled (Christmas)

Games that WILL take place, and for which you should be sure to make plans:

- Sunday, November 15: Unit Game in Morgan Hill (Centennial Recreation Center)
- Sunday, December 6: Unit Christmas party, game and annual meeting (Gilroy Old City Hall)
- Sunday, December 20: Unit Game in Morgan Hill (Centennial Recreation Center)

All of this will be repeated at club games, and in emails from the Unit, including any updates or changes as they occur.



"Cruisin' . . . on a sunny afternoon..."

Most of us know that Lorrie Scott (listed as June Scott, but if you know Lorrie, you know what she prefers) likes to cruise. Many of you know that she has been on more than 100 cruises. I don't know if that is any kind of record, but as someone who has only been on half of one cruise, to ME, that's a LOT! Well, Lorrie loves her cruises. And often, she is playing bridge as she is cruising. And this past summer, Lorrie and her good friend and frequent partner, Mary Legrand, took a flight to Vancouver, BC, to board a fun cruise north to Alaska, making 4 stops, then 5 days crossing the Pacific Ocean to get to Hawaii, where they made 4 more stops, and then flew back to Vancouver. Sounds like a fun time of seeing lots of different land and seascapes. That is, if you leave the bridge room to see what's out there. (Teasing) They had bridge games every day while in port, (this being one of those cruises with many bridge players along for more than the scenery), and twice a day while at sea. I can't vouch for how the sightseeing went, but Lorrie picked up 15 Masterpoints over the 13 days of bridge and reached the level of SILVER LIFE MASTER! Now, that is earning your points in STYLE!

Rank Advancements

We had several advancements over the past two months.

Helen Shaw achieved Club Master (20 mp)

Lennart Naslund achieved Regional Master (100 mp)

And, as described above, Lorrie Scott became a Silver Life Master (1000 mp)!

Congratulations to all!

The Tournament Trail

There have been lots of opportunities to get out and grab some Masterpoints at area tournaments over the past couple of months. And we have had some pretty active participation from the 524. So much so that we're only going to be able to cover some highlights.

Santa Clara Great Western Regional-September 1-8, 2026

Lots of Unit members and friends attended at least one day of this nearby tournament. And some of them did pretty darn well.

Ken Johnson and Joanne Wicker were second in X in the Wednesday Open Pairs, followed by Richard Ross in third place.

Richard also had a sixth in B and third in C in the Saturday Open Pairs.



Bradley Whitaker and Catherine Konrath were fourth in C in the Tuesday afternoon 99er pairs.

Betsy Wagner and Jan Pfiffer were on the third place team in Bracket 5 of the Saturday Bracketed Teams.

Helen and Ed Shaw were third in the Saturday AM 99er pairs.

Plenty other Unit members picked up Masterpoints at this "home" Regional, including: Graham Kelly, Seala Fletcher-Kelly, Skip Pack, Jeff Rogers & Sally Hale, Joanne McLoughlin, Bob Wiedlin and Julia Meader.

Some additional "friends of the Unit" also scoring points included Hank Koransky and Jane Michaels.

Lots of good competition and a pretty good turnout for the locals. Good job!

Sparks, NV Regional-October 12-18, 2026

The next Regional was only 6 weeks later and was not heavily attended by our members. However, friend of the Unit Betsy Wagner was there and had some success in the Bracketed Teams, scoring fourth place in bracket 3 of the Thursday teams, and **first** in bracket 4 of the Wednesday teams. Nicely done, Becky!

Unit 524's Earthquake Sectional-September 12-13, 2026

This was the big one for our Unit. Our very own Sectional, held at the CRC in Morgan Hill. We had a great turnout for the Lawson Sakai Open Pairs on Saturday, but a disappointingly small turnout for the Ron Dragt Open Swiss on Sunday. Still, with those events and the limited games also going on, we had more than 20 members winning Masterpoints!

Winners of the Lawson Sakai Open Pairs were Brenna Wundram of San Jose, and Luen-Jyh Luo of Milpitas. Just the tiniest of fractions behind them were our own Jonna Robinson and Dave Jackson in Second. Graham Kelly was fourth, playing with Teresa Thurman, while Mark Moore and Norm Dow were fifth overall, and second in Flight B. Seala Fletcher Kelly and Joanne McLoughlin were seventh overall, third in B, and first in Flight C.

The team winning the Ron Dragt Open Swiss included Diane Shannon of Campbell, Lynn Shannon of Tucson, and Len Vishnevsky and Jo Ginsberg of San Francisco. The locals didn't do too bad, with the team of Graham Kelly, Joanne Wicker, Win Stone and Jim Craig came in third, followed closely by Linda King, Patty Stone, Lorrie Scott and Dede Huffman.



We don't want to forget the Saturday AM 499er pairs, with Peggy Bradley and Shireen Zekanoski finishing third in B, and Jim and Kathy Krause finishing first in Flight C.

The Saturday afternoon 499ers was won by Neda Dorjath and Linda Chang, with Bob Wiedlin and Rebecca Sanchez taking the Sunday morning 99er pairs.

When the dust settled, Graham Kelly, with his 4th in the pairs and 3rd in the teams finished as the local with the most Masterpoints won, 7.48. He just eked out Jonna and Dave who won 6.96 in the pairs but did not play on Sunday. Graham's name will be placed on the Unit plaque as top point winner, for the second time.

Palo Alto Sectional-August 6-9, 2026

The attendance from 524 was not large for this Sectional, but on Sunday, Bracket 2 of the Bracketed Teams was won by Ken Johnson, Graham Kelly, Seala Fletcher-Kelly, and Joanne Wicker. Way to represent the Unit!

Surf's Up Sectional-October 10-11, 2026

This Santa Cruz Sectional was in competition with a San Francisco tournament and was held at the Santa Cruz Bridge Club facility. Unit 524 had some members journeying over the hill to try to pick up a few MPs. On Saturday, Ken Johnson, playing with Ken Gamble of Santa Cruz, came in third in the Open Pairs, with Graham Kelly and Seala Fletcher-Kelly coming in sixth overall and first in Flight B!

This was followed up by a third place showing in the Open Swiss by a team of Ken Johnson, Jim Craig, Graham Kelly, and Seala Fletcher-Kelly. Ken was the fifth highest masterpoint winner for the weekend, with Graham and Seala coming in tied at seventh/eighth. Very nice showing!

August Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC)

August 17-23, 2026

For the August STaC, qualifying games were played in Hollister on Tuesday, and Gilroy on Thursday. And we had some pretty high finishers in the Overalls across the District.

Tuesday August 18: Dave Jackson and Ken Johnson, playing in Hollister, came in third overall, picking up 4.96 MP. Joanne McLoughlin and Bob Wiedlin had a small gain in Flight C for the morning.

Thursday August 20: A big win for Sally Hale and Jeff Rogers coming in first in the District, earning 7.69 Masterpoints. Jim Craig and Ed Logg were third, and Lennart Naslund and Dennis Rubida were fourth, but also first in Flight B! Seala Fletcher-Kelly and Graham Kelly were close behind in sixth place overall. Section B of the Gilroy club



did not have any other clubs to go up against for their 199er game, but we want to be sure to recognize Irene Popenhagen and Bob Wiedlin for winning, with Geff Kinn and Dave Glashan in second.

Instant Match Points

October 21, 2026

Another fun event was held at the Gilroy club at a special time on a special day. The Instant Matchpoint game is played across the country at about the same time in all cities that hold it. To be able to participate, Win Stone got approval of the City of Gilroy to use our room at the Gilroy Senior Center for this Wednesday date, and the special start time of 12:30 pm. One of the reasons for holding such a game is that the overall winners were guaranteed to receive ONE GOLD POINT as part of their total. Partial red points were also available for all who qualified for masterpoints. Only four tables of players attended to play the fascinating hands and receive the summary booklet that reviewed all hands and awarded the pre-scored masterpoints (100 top on each board) to all pairs, depending on their result. After playing a full set of 28 boards, the winning pair was Lennart Naslund and Dennis Rubida, from Flight B, topping all comers! They received Gold and Red and Black points for their well-earned victory. Nicely done!

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

September Unit Game in Morgan Hill (9/20/26)

The open/stratified game had 5 tables

N/S A– Win Stone & Jonna Robinson

N/S B – Norm Dow & Mark Moore

N/S C - Betsy Wagner & Judith Gouvea

E/W A – Joanne Wicker & Graham Kelly

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



The 199er game had 4 tables

First – Ann Leishman & Bradley Whitaker

Second – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

October Unit Game in Morgan Hill (10/18/26)

The open/stratified game had 6 ½ tables

1st A – Seala Kelly-Fletcher & Joanne McLoughlin

1st B – Win Stone & Jonna Robinson

The 199er game had 4 tables

First – Bob Wiedlin & Nousheen Eslambolchi

Second – Jim & Kathy Krause

Full results are available on the ACBL “Live for Clubs,” and the “Common Game” websites, both with hand records.

Club Games

The **Tuesday** game in **Hollister** (Buena Vista Bridge Club) has a **new locations!** Game time is still 11:00 am Tuesday, but it is now at 300 West Street. It’s pretty easy to find by address. The facility is known as the Pauline Valdivia Memorial Community Center. 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:

Aug 18 N/S 1st – Win & Patty Stone

N/S 2nd – Patrick & Liega Arnett

E/W 1st – Dave Jackson & Ken Johnson

E/W 2nd – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Graham Kelly

Aug 25 A 1st – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Graham Kelly

B 1/2 – Skip Pack & Nancy Sampson

B 1/2 – Suzanne Proctor & Maria Callan

Sep 1 1st – Bob Wiedlin & Joanne McLoughlin

2nd – Jim Craig & Win Stone



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

Sep 8 1st – Jim Craig & Win Stone

2nd – Patrick & Liega Arnett

Sep 15 1st – Jim Craig & Win Stone

2nd – Joanne Wiedlin & Bob Wiedlin

Sep 22 1st – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

2nd – Skip Pack & Susan Vance

Sep 29 1/2 – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

1/2 – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

Oct 6 A1/2 – Jim Craig & Win Stone

A1/2 – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

B1/2 – Bob Wiedlin & Joanne McLoughlin

B1/2 – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

Oct 13 1st – Jim Craig & Win Stone

2nd – Linda King & Rhonda Hardy

Oct 20 A 1st – Jim Craig & Win Stone

B 1st– Susan Vance & 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 hand at 10 am followed by play. There is an Open section and an Intermediate/Novice section with a top limit of 199 MP.

Aug 20 (Open) A 1st – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

B/C 1st – Dennis Rubida & Lennart Naslund

(<199) 1 – Irene Popenhager & Bob Wiedlin

2 – Geff Kinn & Dave Glashan



Aug 27 (Open) N/S A – Melanie Kakalec & Dave Jackson

N/S B – Marianne Wucherpennig & Betsy Wagner

E/W A – Jim Craig & Mark Moore

E/W B – Lennart Naslund & Dennis Rubida

(<199) 1 – Bob Wiedlin & Merrill Wolfe

2 – Geff Kinn & Dave Glashan

Sep 3 was one combined game of 7 Tables

N/S A – Margot Kakalec & Win Stone

N/S B – Dennis Rubida & Lennart Naslund

N/S C – Irene Popenhager & Bradley Whitacker

E/W A – Melanie Kakalec & Dave Jackson

E/W B/C – Gretchen Ross & Carmel Trela

Sep 10 (Open) 1st – Lennart Naslund & Dennis Rubida

2nd – Jim Craig & Win Stone

(<199) 1st – Bob Wiedlin & Nancy Sampson

2nd – Jim Krause & Maria Schalk

Sep 17 (Open) N/S 1st – Linda King & Lorrie Scott

N/S 2nd – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Graham Kelly

E/W 1st – Lennart Naslund & Dennis Rubida

E/W 2nd – Liega & Patrick Arnett

(<199) 1st – Bob Wiedlin & Bradley Whitacker

2nd – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks



Sep 24 was one combined game of 8 ½ Tables

N/S A – Jim Craig & Mark Moore

N/S B – Marianne Wucherpennig & Betsy Wagner

N/S C – Skip Pack & Rhonda Hardy

E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

E/W B – Liega & Patrick Arnett

E/W C – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

Oct 1 (Open) N/S A – Jim Craig & Graham Kelly

N/S B – Ginny Arguello & Betsy Wagner

E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

E/W B – Rhonda Hardy & Dennis Rubida

(<199) 1 – Peggy Bradley & Arlene Greenberg

2 – Jim Krause & Irene Popenhager

Oct 8 (Open) 1st – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Carol Nicolette

2nd – Ken Johnson & Graham Kelly

(<199) 1– Peggy Bradley & Celeste Brandt

2 – Bob Wiedlin & Bradley Whitaker

Oct 15 (Open) A1 – Melanie Kakalec & Patty Stone

B1 – Dennis Rubida & Lennart Naslund

(<199) 1 – Geff Kinn & Dave Glashan

2 – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

Oct 22 (Open) N/S A – Melanie Kakalec & Dave Jackson

N/S B– Patrick Arnett & Lorrie Scott

E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

E/W B– Margot Kakalec & Barbara Earley



(<199) 1– Shireen Zekanoski & Irene Popenhager

2 – Peggy Bradley & Celeste Brandt

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, 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. There may be some cancelations during the holidays if they land right on a game day. You can always check on game day, or a day ahead, to see if it is on the BBO schedule.

Marin By Mary Warner (508)



Here are our amazing YTD Masterpoint Leaders:

Joanne Murdock - 67.65

Gene Simpson - 44.42

Mark Buchignini - 65.72

Dianne Williams - 40.29

Angelo Servino - 50.56

Q4 Winners on the rise:

Andrea Ventris - 9.86

Mark Buchignani - 8.15

Loretta Bromberg - 8.62

David Blohm - 7.56

Congratulations to these hard-working Bridge players on their recent achievements!

Brian Strunk - Bel Tiburon - Club Master

June Strunk - Bel Tiburon - Club Master

Karen Antonelli - San Francisco - Regional Master

Tess Offord - San Anselmo - Regional Master

Elizabeth D'Orazio - Corte Madera - NABC Master

Barry Doyle - Mill Valley - Ruby Life Master



DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

More 'Congrats' to these Unit 508 members who have reached a new level of proficiency. Keep up the good work!

Peggy Riley - Mill Valley - Junior Master

Jack Schafer - Nicasio - Junior Master

Joan Hoeberichts - Tiburon - Junior Master

Keith Offord - San Anselmo - Club Master

Susan Beech - Tiburon - Sectional Master

Jill Kantola - Tiburon - Sectional Master

Anita Sinclair - San Rafael - Sectional Master

Donna Davidson - San Francisco - Regional Master

Wayner Gilbert - Tiburon - Regional Master

Diane Sklar - Tiburon - NABC Master

Larry Eggen - Mill Valley - Bronze Life Master

David Blohm - Vacaville - Gold Life Master

Social Bridge Night is in full swing as a result of our enthusiastic new board members, Tess Offord and Chris Ohland. The first was attended by 34 newbies and oldies for a Potluck and no-worries game. The second one in October was also a hit with some new rookies attending. The next one is scheduled for November 13.

Our big fundraiser for Homeward bound is planned for December 13 with a potluck and game. One of our prominent members double matches all contributions. Homeward Bound is an enormous contributor to the welfare of our homeless, supplying training, jobs and homes.

Meet New People!

SOCIAL BRIDGE NIGHT

FRIENDLY, CASUAL PLAY.
GOOD FRIENDS, GREAT FOOD!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 | **TERRA LINDA RECREATION CENTER**

5:30 PM
Potluck & Social
Bring a favorite dish to share (optional) and enjoy a relaxed evening catching up with friends and meeting new players.

6-9 PM
Social Bridge
♠ No partner needed
♥ Beginners encouraged
♦ Friendly, casual play
♣ A great way to make new bridge friends!

All skill levels welcome!

Questions? Contact **DIANE SKLAR** (415) 610-1438

Same Great People Different Hands!

COME FOR THE FOOD. STAY FOR THE FUN!



If you missed it.... Some exciting news at our Philanthropy. Homeward Bound is honoring the late Jerry Meislin, a dedicated bridge enthusiast and Homeward Bound contributor. Read more at [Introducing Jerry's Place, a Home for Seniors to Thrive](#).

Profile of Barbara Prior

I first met Barbara Prior when she and Peggy (Tatro) Strong were teaching bridge on an Alaska cruise. I got very enthused and started playing Barbara's lively, room-packed games at Belvedere on Tuesdays. She was an inspiration to many of us. Little did I know this back story about Barbara. Thanks to *Barbara Cooper* for writing this in 2008 and sharing it with us all.



How would you like to invite 50-100 people into your home twice a week for a session of duplicate bridge, then serve them fresh brewed coffee, marvelous homemade cakes, dips and spreads and the best egg salad in the Bay Area, as well as providing a gracious venue in which to play bridge and make friends? That is exactly the feeling you get when playing in one of Barbara Prior's bridge games in Marin County. She makes everyone feel as if they were being entertained in her home.

How did Barbara come to reside here and direct bridge games? She was raised in Skokie, Illinois and moved to Southern California after her sophomore year in high school. It was during this time that she learned to play bridge. She was encouraged by the grandmother of one of her friends, who was a life master. She attended Cal State Fullerton, Whittier College and Cal State Long Beach majoring in home economics and of course finding time to play bridge. While attending college she met her future husband.

After he completed his tour of duty in the military during the Vietnam era, they were married and moved to Mission Viejo, California. There Barbara volunteered at the State Hospital and worked with people with special needs. She enjoyed this work so much that she went back to school and got her credential to teach special education.

During this time, she had two boys, two years apart. In order to maintain her sanity, she would take a night off each week to play duplicate bridge at the local recreation center. She found that not only did she love to play bridge, but she enjoyed teaching others to play as well.

After her husband was transferred to Marin County, she played bridge at Rolling Hills in the 1970's. She also began to teach bridge at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato. She became a director and got her feet wet by filling in at Rolling Hills for Peggy Tatro (Now Strong) upon occasion.



Ten years ago, this March, 2008, she was asked to direct the game at Belvedere Recreation Center. In the beginning she had 4-5 tables of bridge. She promoted her game by sending out flyers in southern Marin encouraging people to come play bridge and enjoy her hospitality. Eventually she also took over the Wednesday night game for non-life masters which began at the Jewish Community Center, moved to PARNOW House, and now resides at Terra Linda Recreation Center.

Barbara has always had a special affinity for the new bridge players. She wants everyone to have fun playing bridge in a non-intimidating atmosphere. Barbara feels that people should play bridge because it is fun. It should be a social event. She also recognizes that it is "Good for the Brain." Her greatest thrill is helping new players learn the games and watching them grow as bridge players. Toward this end she taught beginning bridge.

Her positive attitude and love of the game is responsible for the growth of the duplicate games not to mention her killer egg salad. Her recipe? 1 dozen eggs, 1 tbsp curry powder and light mayonnaise to blend, but don't tell her I told you.

Rest in Peace, Lani Valentine

Lani Valentine passed away peacefully earlier in September with her son and daughter at her side. Her friends have described her as beautiful, so kind and loving, sharing, and with the biggest heart. A Mass and celebration were held September 28 in Larkspur.

Thanks to *Bob Chilvers* for this profile written previously.

Lani Valentine was an outdoor enthusiast, traveler, grape farmer, philanthropist, local government office holder, mother, and grandmother (four granddaughters). Lani's parents met while her father was doing his residency at Shriners Hospital in San Francisco. She was born in California, but her family soon moved to her father's hometown: Mobile, Alabama. She lived there until she was eight, then, much to her delight, her family moved back to California.

She was educated at St. Ignatius and Marin Catholic high schools. Then, although accepted at Stanford, because of family ties she decided to attend Trinity College in Washington D.C. After graduating she worked in public relations for American President lines. After that she did volunteer philanthropic work for the San Francisco Junior League for 35 years, including volunteering at Audubon Canyon Ranch. She was a long-time resident of Belvedere and served as a Member of the Belvedere City Council for eight years, including two terms as Mayor!



Some of her favorite memories were: flying in a small plane to remote parts of Alaska and flying in a helicopter to remote parts of New Zealand to go fly fishing with her husband (always catch-and-release); and hiking in the Dolomites in Italy.

In 1987 she and her husband bought and renovated a vineyard 3 miles north of Cloverdale where they grew Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. The vineyard is currently managed by her son.

Lani's advice to her fellow bridge players was, "Stay with bridge. It's better than Prevacen."

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



The unit is proud to announce that there were three new rank advancements this period. John Mayne became a Gold Life Master, Mike Saeler achieved Life Master, while Lynn Brooks reached the rank of Club Master. Well done to the three of you!

In the Monday group, on August 3, Ray Lassman and Ed Jeffers won with 67.50%. On the thirtieth, Jane Griffith and Sheila Carroll took first with a very, very nice 71.88% game. High pointers for the month were Ray Lassman with 2.38. Unfortunately, we have lost Ray until March of next year as he is now back in his home country of Australia. Coming in second was Colleen Blackman at 1.65. Colleen nudged Nancy Simas and Sheila Carroll who tied at 1.61. Kathy Amos won the honorable mention in this period.

A STAC event was staged the middle of August. The Monday game ended in a tie between Ray Lassman/Cathie Peck and Colleen Blackman/Nancy Simas at 64.07%. Tuesday saw Frank Frohman and Sheela Wani win with 62.96%. Thursday was paced by Lee Maddocks/Ray Adams who finished with 64.17% to capture second overall in the district. Barbara and Jim Page won Saturday with 62.22%. Overall, for the week, Frank Frohman was first in A, Lee Maddocks second, and Ray Adams third. B was captured by Barbara Page who was also first overall at the club with a total of 4.73 points. Sharon Cole was second in B, and Gary Capwell third. In C, Jim Page won, Jaime Hamilton was second, and Ed Jeffers third. Mike and Rose Epting won the honorable mention.

The August Unit game was a Life Master party for newly crowned Life Master Mike Saeler. There was a tasty cake and other treats. Mike even added to his total points when he and wife Sandy Dieker came in second in C. The event was paced by Lee Maddocks/Ray Adams with a special 73.61% effort.

The Pages were first in B and C. Judy Remmers/Sheela Wani were third overall while Jaime Hamilton/Sharon Cole came in fourth.

In September, Kathy High/Dee Alexander won A & B in the Unit game at 61.31%,



while Sheela Wani/Ray Adams were second, Ralph Jungwirth and Trelle Uhl third, and Debbie DeZarn and Garrard Marsh finished fourth. The Pages won C stratum.

Top scores in the Saturday game were: a tie between Ed Jeffers/Matt Weston-Dawkes and Libby Longstreth/Judy Remmers at 65.63%, while second was 62.78% by the Pages, with Marilyn McRitchie and Kathleen Dormer tying Jeanne Russo/Marcia Laird at 62.50%. A close honorable mention went to Joyce Rudesill/Sharon Cole with 62.43%. On September 5, Marilyn McRitchie/Pam Rozycki were first in A, B, and C.

High scorers in this game were B (readers will remember that A players are not allowed to win points in this game): Sharon Cole/Joyce Rudesill at 2.90, second Libby Longstreth with 2.44, and third, Jeanne Russo at 1.68. In C, Ed Jeffers dominated at 3.03, Marilyn McRitchie second with 2.73, while Pam Rozycki came in third at 2.02.

The high scores for the open game this period were: a very nice 74% by Sheela Wani/Frank Frohman, 66.88% turned in by Lee Maddocks/Libby Longstreth, and a very, very good game by C players Ed Jeffers and Jeanne Russo at 66.2%. Well done, Ed and Jeanne!

High pointers for the month were A: Ray Adams, Sheela Wani, and Lee Maddocks. B: Barbara Page, Gary Capwell, and Sharon Cole. In C, Jim Page was first, Ed Jeffers second, and Jaime Hamilton third.

Two members of our unit did exceptionally well in a recent regional in Southern California. Lee Maddocks added almost 60 gold to his total points by winning one event, coming in third in two others and placing fourth in another. Bruce Ruskin won one event and finished with about 30 gold. Congratulations to both players! The unit is proud to see its members doing well in out-of-town tournaments.

Well, for Halloween I plan to dress as a bridge buff. See you at the table.

Monterey By Ed Schrenzel (530)

The Unit 530 Bridge Club hosted three monthly Bridge and Brunch games this quarter.

First, it celebrated summer with a special hot dog lunch on Sunday, **August 9**. The event drew 38 bridge players, many of whom contributed salads, side dishes, and desserts. According to unit treasurer Joyce Hamza, it netted \$630, of which \$85 were donations.

The top North-South team was Roy Shanker and Linda Gibson, with runners-up Nancy Croom and Mo Wittels and third-place Marti Jones and Bob Farrell. Alan Hedegard and Leonard Chriss finished first East-West followed by Mano Singham and Bob DuBroff and Trulee Ricketts and Helen Rubin in third.



DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

On Sunday, **September 13**, the unit celebrated all birthdays from the past year with a large chocolate birthday cake! The main meal was baked ham with scalloped potatoes with ham, and the buffet table was full of other delicious food and treats.

The event attracted 52 players and resulted in a net of \$1,008, of which \$210 were donations.

The top North-South Point finishers were the team of Jay Armstrong and Peter Gelfand while Tom and Ewan Eby finished second and Sharon Larson and Jim Lauderdale were third. Topping the East-West teams were Mano Singham and Bob DuBroff, followed by runners-up Maja and Hetty Eddy and third-place Barbara Santry and Joyce Hamza.

The **October 11** Unit Game attracted 36 players. The event featured an autumn luncheon buffet and netted \$642 of which \$135 were donations. The monthly unit games help us to offset our monthly expenses.

Leading North-South finishers were Keith Hedlund and Janet Hedlund followed by Gerry Kapolka and Martha Hawley and Kathy Pfitzer and Stephanie Booth. Jim Lauderdale and Helen Rubin were tops East-West with Mano Singham and Bob Dubroff in second and Kurt Schnebele and Arlene Seckel third.

The next Unit Game will take place on Sunday, **November 8** at 201B Calle del Oaks in Del Rey Oaks, California; 831-747-1650

Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512)



Here's a nice announcement: David Mendel achieved the rank of Life Master playing with Tom Jensen at the Sectional held by Unit 509 in Petaluma earlier this month! He has already earned 166 masterpoints this year, more than all but one player in our Unit has accumulated since the start of 2026. Please join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved achievement.

Barry Walner kept many of us entertained with his saga of auctioning a Mickey Mantle baseball card that he acquired in the early 1950's in the usual fashion by buying a pack of gum at a local (east coast) drug store. With all the faith of a young man he mailed the card to Mickey, care of Yankees Stadium, with the request that he autograph it and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope he enclosed. The signed card was returned, and Barry has held on to it all these years. The auction ended October 10th and Barry was rewarded with a significant return on his five-cent investment. I won't disclose the final bid, ask Barry and he will fill you in.

In July we celebrated **Anita Pensler's** 96th birthday. Anita has been an active member of Unit 512 for more than 25 years and you can always find her starting at Table 4 East/West. She arrives at the games early and makes sure the pencils are





sharpened and the tables are properly set up. We all look forward to celebrating the 97th with Anita next July.

Members of Unit 512 enjoyed a free play courtesy of the Unit Board on August 12th at Vintage Duplicate BC and can do so again on October 30th at Napa Valley BC.

The **Ace of Clubs** and **Mini-McKenney** standings look remarkably similar with the leaders in each race being the same until the 500-1000 and the 7500-10,000 masterpoint categories. These are annual competitions, beginning January 1st; leaders are as follows:

0-5 mps: Robin Rose, closely followed by Lisa Harb

5-20 mps: Randy Loe, trailed by Elaine Smith

20-50 mps: Jean Kilgore has a strong lead over Randy Vandenberg in the Mini-McKenney and Anne Mieling in the Ace of Clubs

50-100 mps: Cheryl Marcillac is slightly ahead of Kelley Thompson

100-200 mps: Howard Bye-Torre holding off Linda Yankee

200-300 mps: David Mendel has a strong lead over Helen Wade

300-500 mps: Sherry Shone with Curt Jeschke snapping at her heels

**500-1000 mps: Helen Bohl is ahead of Ed Houk in the mini-McKenney while Leandra Steward has a very slight lead over Ed in the Ace of Clubs competition

1000-1500 mps: Lynn Dondero neck and neck with Britt-Marie Eldred (could Kermit, Lynn's sidekick, have anything to do with this?)

1500-2500 mps: Nancy Rude with Richard Tebay very close behind

2500-3500 mps: Kathleen Smith wayyy ahead of Sylvan Karfiol

3500-5000 mps: Clyde Smith trailed by Anita Pensler

5000-7500 mps: Jeff Ferro alone is this field

**7500-10,000 mps: Tom Jacobson is ahead of the undersigned in the Mini-McKenney but I have the lead in the Ace of Clubs, so this could be a photo-finish event



Events in the future to consider are as follows:

October 26, 27 & 28 is Club Appreciation Week in Sonoma

October 30, there will be a Charity Game in Napa

Additionally, Napa Valley BC is hosting a Halloween celebration (costumes encouraged!) and celebration and recognition of players who enjoyed a birthday in October. Costumes will be judged by attendees and prizes awarded. And don't forget the Unit is paying entry fees for all Unit members attending the game on October 30th.

November 2, 3, and 4 Sonoma will have Club Championship games

November 6 a Charity Game is scheduled in Napa

November 9 and 11 Unit Championships will be in Sonoma

November 13 Napa will have a Unit Championship

Royal STaC Week starts November 16th in all the clubs

November 23, 24, and 25 Sonoma will have Charity Games

Just remember that according to Alfred Sheinwold acceptable excuses for not leading the suit your partner opened are having a void or sudden death 😊

Best to all for Halloween and the forthcoming holidays...may all your finesses be successful!

Sigrid Price, Unit 512 VP, 707-486-1517 or d21sigrid@gmail.com

Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club, game time 11:30, Monday, Tuesday (limited to under 500 masterpoints, lesson before the game) and Wednesday, located at 20580 Broadway, Sonoma

Napa Valley Bridge Club, game time 12:45 located at Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson Street, Napa

Palo Alto By David Merenbach (503)



Most of us will never be the "best of the best" in any of our fields of endeavor. We are thrilled to watch Steph Curry, Shohei Ohtani, and/or Meryl Streep do what they do best, knowing we could never do what they do even as we dream about being in their shoes. If we are lucky, we may meet one of these legends in our life and get the chance to express our appreciation for what they do and to possibly learn something from them.



On October 3rd, Unit 503 gathered to celebrate our local legends who are in fact the "best of the best". The winners of the **2026 US Mixed Team Bridge Champions**, Xin Ge (captain), Michael Rosenberg, Debbie Rosenberg, Kevin Rosenberg, Amber Lin and Disa Eythorsdottir are from Unit 503 or have played here frequently. With over 120 people in attendance the above-named champions shared their experiences on their way to victory, and some key lessons learned upon the way. Their presentation was insightful, funny and educational. All six members of Team Ge participated and showed amazing humility despite their recent and ongoing accomplishments. Between them the Team have claimed 20 World Championships, over 30 North American or US Championships, a handful of European Championships, have won many Player of the Year or equivalent honors and feature an ACBL Hall of Famer. After the presentation... we played! Players in the open section of our game were able to compete against the legends. Kudos to the volunteers who planned the event, which one attendee labeled it as the "best bridge event they ever attended". Thank you to Team Ge for making time for us and good luck representing the USA in the Wuhan Cup in the coming year... we will be rooting for you.



Unit 503 and the Palo Alto Bridge Center (PABC) are focused on building and celebrating our community. We were thrilled by the energy in the room as we celebrated our champions and know that there will be equal energy in the room in our two upcoming community events. On Friday October 30th, we will host our annual Halloween Party. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and as in the past you will not want to miss the opportunity to see who sees themselves as royalty and who is forming a coven.



Unpack your ugly sweaters and other holiday attire... it is nearly time for the Unit 503 holiday party. On Sunday December 13, the PABC will be hosting our annual Holiday Party and Unit game. There will be festive food in abundance, a raffle, and open and limited games. This annual event often reaches capacity so sign up early.

So much to celebrate in our bridge community! I hope to see you at the table soon. We have games five days a week and regular classes. Find out more at our website: paloaltobridge.org.



If you have questions, comments or feedback on this article I can be reached at merenbach@yahoo.com.

Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)

A Summer of Special Events for the Reno Club

The Mathewson Bridge Club had sectional tournaments in June and August, a seminar with Michael Berkowitz; and the summer was capped off by the Reno-Sparks Regional at the Nugget Casino.

On September 18 Michael taught us all how to read the table with his lesson on Card Placing. Our team of hosts made sure we were all well fed for the whole day of fun, learning and play. After the rest of us headed home with heads full of new insights, the crew stayed to clean up.

Michael has a true fan club here in Reno. These players will be cruising with him soon.



The Organizers: Joe Beloso, Janet Wright, Jean Beloso, Michael, Kathy Kalls, Donna Neff, Jill Wallace, Vicky Edmondson; not pictured: Pam Miller.



The Cruisers: Pam Miller, Jacquelyn Mall, Michael, Jean Beloso, Karol McClellan, Rene Reid, Kathy Abel, Michael Robinson, Gary Nitzberg.

The Reno Sparks Regional was fun and "profitable" for our club members. Finishing in the top 50 for individual points: Steve Print, Bradford Stone, Donna Neff, Jim Paschal, Cynthia Birk, Diane Walz, Ken Ditto, Sandra Haslem, and Debra Ziegler. Congratulations!

The Tournament featured excellent lessons between sessions. I especially appreciated Director Jenni Carmichael's lesson on "Common Misconceptions." I learned the rules on who announces a Failure to Alert and when. She covered other situations that can be problems for new and advancing players.



San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)

Milestones

Congratulations to Emily Francis on becoming the newest Life Master in Unit 506.

Moving up the rung toward Life Masters in August are Regional Masters Helen Chow, Olga Abouab, Eric Cohen, and Donna Davidson; Club Masters Laurence Baskin, Miriam Baskin, Katharine Rogers, Samuel Kuang, and Henry Zhang (who is visiting San Francisco for several months and whom I assume is the equivalent of Life Master); and Junior Master Erik Moller.

Since our last report in August, the following attained a new rung in the Life Master ladder: Ruby Life Master Richard Robertson; Bronze Life Master Lora Danis and Neil Vaz; Advanced NABC Master David Murray; Club Masters Rand Montoya, Mark Sachleben, Lynda Sullivan, Joyce Dubay; Junior Masters Willa Madden and Danny Xu.

Also, a shout-out to David Achterkirchen for finishing 19th in the September "Bulletin" in the "It's Your Call Feature" (p. 46).

Unit 506 at the Minneapolis NABC, Part 2

The Summer NABC was held in Minneapolis this year from July 8th to July 19th.

- Sally Foster and Joelle Benioff came in 15th out of 36 tables in the Wednesday Open Pairs.
- Ashish Gupta and Andrew Eidelhoch came in 8th overall and 4th in Strat C in the Tue-Fri Evening Side Series. Doing this well in a four-day event shows a great deal of focus and stamina.
- Coming in 7th in the Thursday Fast Pairs were Ari Greenberg and Thuy Tran.
- In the 2nd Thursday Top Flight Pairs, Ankur Rathi finished 16th with his partner Max Aeschbacher of Cottonwood Heights, UT.
- Andrew Eidelhoch and Nathan Chow finished 7th in the Collegiate Pairs Championship.
- Samuel Kuang also finished 2nd in the 2nd Sunday Morning 499er Pairs and sister Kaitlyn finished in 4th place.
- Ari Greenberg amassed 12.94 Masterpoints with his teammates in the 2nd Sunday A/X/Y Swiss Teams. They finished tied for fourth out of a field of 39 teams.

Last month, we told you about Mike Rippey surviving one round of the difficult Spingold Knockout Teams. Well Mike again did well with his international team in the



Roth Open Swiss Teams by finishing 14th and earning 41.74 MP. This event began in 2005 as the Open Swiss Teams and was renamed in 2010 to the Roth Open Swiss in honor of Al Roth. According to Wikipedia, Al Roth invented 5-card majors, negative doubles, forcing no trump, and the unusual no trump. Mr. Roth was fortunate to not have played in our era of Zero Tolerance. According to Dick Freeman, a Bermuda Bowl winner, described Roth as "very tough to sit opposite—unless you were so thick-skinned that no insult was severe enough to hurt, or you were willing to make extreme sacrifices to get on a winning side." (Ed note: Why would the ACBL name a tournament after a guy like that?)

Mike Rippey's finish in these big events earned him the top Masterpoint total for Unit 506: a total of 70.51

Complete results can be found [here](#).

Tournament Recap

Palo Alto Sectional August 6th through 9th

San Francisco was represented by Jane McLaughlin who finished 6th with her partner Debbie Rosenberg in the Thursday Open Pairs. The following month, Jane took a trip down to Irvine for the Orange County Regional where she came in 10th in the Friday Open Pairs with her partner Giorgia Botta of Brooklyn. Other Unit 506 participants in Palo Alto were Lea Salem finishing 6th with her partner Lipika Sur in the Friday Silver Rush Pairs. That same pair finished 5th in the Saturday Silver Rush Pairs.

Emily Francis and David Murray finished 2nd in the Saturday Mid-Flight Pairs while David Sweet finished tied for 4th with his partner Jian Fang of Sunnyvale. David and Jian finished 2nd in the Sunday Bracketed Team 3.

Ari Greenberg finished 2nd with his teammates in the Sunday Bracketed Team I.

Siblings Samuel and Kaitlyn Kuang finished first in the Sunday Bracketed Teams 4.

The top San Francisco Masterpoint winner in Palo Alto was Thuy Tran with 10.77 MP.

Complete results can be found [here](#).

All Western Championships (Regional, Santa Clara, CA, September 1st through 7th)

Nasir Memon came in 2nd with his partner, Amit Garg of Saratoga in the Tuesday Afternoon Open Side Pairs.

In the Tuesday Open Pairs, Jim Leuker & Bruce Blakely came in 4th while Judy Soong and Gail Gabiati finished 12th.



Len Vishnevsky finished 10th in the Wednesday Open Pairs with his partner Richard Ross of Gilroy.

In the Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs, Patricia Cericola and David Lansky finished 5th in the Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs while Lea Salem and Michael Klayman finished two spots back from them. However, Lea and Michael finished first in the Thursday Gold Rush Pairs.

In the Thursday Open Pairs Jo Ginsberg finished 7th with her partner, Jean Barry of Livermore.

In the Thursday Bracket Teams 1, Mark Ralph and Len Vishnevsky finished fourth with their teammates. Gary Near finished 2nd in the Bracket Teams 2 with his teammates. 1st place in the Bracket Team 6 was taken by Henry Zhang, Nasir Memon, and their teammates. In 2nd were Etan Cohen and Diane Hidy.

Friday's Gold Rush pairs were won by Shabbir Anik and his partner Vivek Paul of Los Altos. Another first place was taken by Joseph Fang and his partners in the Saturday Bracket 1. Kaitlyn Kuang continued her success by finishing first with her teammates in the Saturday Bracket 6 Teams.

Special congratulations to Vicki Lerner and Mark McCarthy for their first-place finish in the All Western Open Pairs. Stella Wan took second with her partner, Richard Jeng of Los Angeles. With the win, Vicki finished tops among all San Franciscans collecting Masterpoints in Santa Clara.

On Labor Day, the last day of the tournament Peter Krag and Chris Chou finished first with their teammates in the Monday Bracket B Teams 1. Chris Friday and Martha Keller finished second with their teammates.

Complete results for the All Western Regional can be found [here](#).

Unit 506 Games

September 26th

Eighteen total tables (13 Open; 5 499er) participated in the Unit 506 game in September. Overall winners were friends from Northern California: Sara Rothmuller of Occidental (I have a funny story about Occidental) and Nancy Gunn of Santa Rosa. They scored a 66.83% for 5.48 Masterpoints sitting North/South. San Franciscans took the top spot East/West as Martin Kaye and Judy Soong finished with a 61.38% and 4.11 MP.

Complete Results can be found [here](#).

In the 499er game, Laurie and Andy Cohen (not the T.V. guy) came in first overall playing North/South. They scored a whopping 66.25% (10% more than the next



competitor) for 1.11 MP. The 56.25% went to East/West tops Karen Beard and Jane Buckley.

Complete Results can be found [here](#).

October Sectional, October 10th & 11th

Unfortunately, attendance may have been a bit lighter than usual due to all kinds of activities in San Francisco: Fleet Week, Italian American Festival, and hangover from the Golden State Valkyries win over Las Vegas on the Friday before.

Thirty-one tables participated Saturday. In the 499er Morning Session, Alan Botts and Paul Martin of The City came in first overall with a 67.51% and 2.29 MP. Gary MacGregor of Portola Valley and Mark McCarthy of San Francisco finished first in the two-session Open Pairs. Paulette Moe of Ross and Carolyn Farren of Larkspur came in first in the B stratification while Chris Chen and Samuel Kuang of San Francisco came in first in the C stratification.

Bracketed Teams was the theme on Sunday. Dan Kroll of Berkeley; Douglas Burke of Fremont; Shazia Makhdumi & Deepak Ramanathan of San Francisco finished first in Bracket I. The North Bay took a sweep in Bracket II with Jeff Sacher of Petaluma; David Mendel of Sonoma; Patricia Hertz of Sebastopol; and Tony Jackson of Rohnert Park CA coming in first.

Results for top finishers can be found [here](#).

Instant Matchpoint Game

Five tables played in the Instant Matchpoint Game on Wednesday, October 21st. A gold point was given to the winners in each direction. Vicki Lerner & Christian Goetze took the Gold for N/S while Lucy Ballard & Michele Burton took it for E/W.

Complete results can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Unit 506 Games

Both the November and December Unit games will be held at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral, 1111 Gough St (at Geary). On Saturday, November 7th, there will be a team game in the Open Section and a pairs game for 499er players if enough players show up.

In December, the Unit Game will be held on Saturday, December 19th. The December Unit Game is always a festive occasion with the Holiday Pot Luck.

Information for both games can be found [here](#).



San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



Happy Fall from Unit 498!

We enjoyed a full day of bridge on August 19 in celebration of the Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club and Jenny Kuhn's 10 years of directing! Food and fun was in abundance for all who joined us for any of the games, many playing in more than one session.

We had lots of winners throughout the day. In the morning 199er game, first place went to N/S Maureen Olson-Vince Tornabene, E/W Stuart Zussman-John Sykes, and second place N/S Nancy Khurshid-Cindy McKae. In the afternoon open game, the winners were N/S Matt Colen-Phil Kuhn and E/W Lucy Ballard-Kathryn Barnard with second place going to N/S Mike Halliday-Janet Williams and E/W Nancy Riffle-Chuck Riffle. In the evening game first place went to N/S Janice O'Brien-Fred Chasalow and E/W Doug Grant-Chuck Riffle and second place went to N/S Siuling Ku-Ken Hui and E/W Debra Martinez-Lauren Rosen.



It was a fantastic day and all who participated had a great time (and maybe ate a few too many cupcakes)!

We had a fantastic turnout at our fall sectional at the Palo Alto Bridge Center on September 26 and 27. It was a very successful tournament thanks to our tournament coordinator Carol Lashman, our tournament director Greg Vance, all of the rest of the directors, our caddies, and our team of volunteers: Eileen DiGiorgio, Bob Gleason, Leslie Braker, Jeanne Urich, Kathryn Barnard, Robert Lerche, Lauren Rosen, Stuart Zussman, Birgit Shay, Kit Morse, and many more. Thank you!

Unit 498 Non-Life Master Sectional in November

We have a special sectional for non-life masters with fewer than 750 masterpoints scheduled for November 14. Mark your calendar and save the date so you can earn some of those elusive silver points on your way to earning your life master! There will be a morning and afternoon session. Play in both sessions or just one, but either way, come and play! Space is limited for this tournament so pre-registration is highly recommended. See all the details in the flyer at our website

Please visit our [Unit 498.com](http://Unit498.com) website for news and registration details for these 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)



Our Newcomers are going strong in Santa Cruz. We have several opportunities for playing, learning and advancing for newer players. We have added shuffle deal and play games. No pressure, no points but lots of practice assistance/input from more seasoned players. We have newcomer games every Wednesday with MPs. For our intermediate players every other fourth Wednesday of the month, we are holding "Expert at Your Elbow" instruction. Each table a volunteer Master Player sits with three intermediates. Each board is bid and played and then discussed by the foursome.

Member News

Nikki Shoemaker & Susan Schwartz took 1st place in the Art Weinstein for 0-99 pairs game at the San Mateo Fall Sectional.

Welcome to new member, Zining Peng!



New Rankings

NABC Master

- Betsy Allen

New Regional Masters

- Christina Kobland
- Barbara Tidmore
- Lesley Xu

New Club Masters

- Charlotte Keely
- Marilyn Walker

New Junior Masters

- Julie Bertani-Kiser
- Zining Peng

70% Game

8/12 Cathy Foy - Mary Graves 72.5%

Surf's Up Sectional

Another fantastic Surf's Up Sectional. Thanks to all our volunteers who brought snacks and helped make our weekend a success:



- John Hullman, Chairman
- Ken Llacera, Partnership Desk
- Farol Henderson, Robert Johnson,
- Cindy Sedey, Angie Millslagle





Open games had 9 tables Sat morning, 8.5 in the afternoon. I/N had 5 tables Sat morning and 4.5 in the afternoon. Twelve tables for Swiss Teams on Sunday.

Surf's up Top 3 in "A Strat"... more results [here](#)

I/N Morning

- 1st A Vi Gassman - Janet Loops 1.29 Silver 59.0%
- 2nd A Diane Duey - Lynne Weatherman 1.19 Silver 56.5%
- 3rd A Francesco Ruggeri - Cindy Sedey. 0.73 Silver 56.0%

I/N Afternoon

- 1st A Michael Modest - Christina Kobland 1.72 Silver 60.0%
- 2nd A Lynne Weatherman - Diane Duey 1.29 Silver 57.90%
- 3rd A Louise Kirkbride - Craig Horn 1.44 Silver 54.7%

Open Pairs Morning

- 1st A Peter Gelfand - Ken Llacera 2.41 Silver 63.54%
- 2nd A Jo Ginsberg - Len Vishnevsky 2.41 Silver 63.35%
- 3rd A Richard Hamlin- Barbara Black 1.69 Silver 61.04%

Open Pairs Afternoon

- 1st A Peter Gelfand - Ken Llacera 8.25 Silver
- 2nd A Jo Ginsberg - Len Vishnevsky 6.19 Silver
- 3rd A Kenneth Johnson - Ken Gamble 4.64 Silver

Sunday Swiss Teams

- 1st Peter Gelfand-Jo Ginsberg-Len Vishnevsky-Jay Armstrong 6.05 Silver
- 2nd Lynn Shannon-John Miller-Floyd McWilliams-Diane Shannon 4.54 Silver
- 3rd James Slinger-Susan Slinger-Xavier Prochaska-Ken Llacera 3.40

**Happy Birthday Susan!!****August 18th**

The Bridge Center celebrated Susan Slinger's 90th birthday. There were six full tables of friends wishing her well and enjoying the celebratory cupcakes provided by Heather.

**Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Maxine Reagh (509)****Petaluma Fall Sectional Results**

Unit 509 hosted another Fall Sectional on Oct. 3 and 4. Though attendance was lower than we had hoped, all went smoothly under the direction of Greg Vance. The free lunch provided on Sunday by Jacki Ortiz was a hit and many people got to take home leftovers. There were plenty of snacks, thanks to all the volunteers who donated them. Our caddies were thrilled to get a nice amount in tips, even though there were fewer people in attendance than previous years. Thank you to all who donated to the tip jar. Our caddies will be back next March 6 and 7 for our Spring Sectional. Thanks to Kathy Venton for being the Partnership Chair and to Tony Jackson for coming early and staying late to help, as needed. And thanks to Jeff Sachar for coordinating our Saturday lunch orders. Co-chairs, Harley Conner and myself, Maxine Reagh, thank ALL who attended. Below are the highlights of the results:

Saturday***Overalls:***

Tony Jackson and **Patricia Hertz** 14.44 silver points

Tracey Bauer and **Keith Bauer** 10.83 silver points

Open Pairs a.m. Section A

Tracey Bauer and **Keith Bauer** NS 68.51%

Linda Marin and **Wendy Merget** EW 58.75%

Open Pairs a.m. Section B

Sara Rothmuller and **Shelly Dunietz** NS 55.93%

Tony Jackson and **Patricia Hertz** EW 64.22%



Open Pairs **p.m.** Section **A**

Nancy Gunn and **Bob Klein** NS 61.21%

Thomas Jensen and **David Mendel** EW 61.63%

Open Pairs **p.m.** Section **B**

Jeff Sachar and **Tess Offord** NS 60.39%

Lynn Giusti and **Mary Omodt** EW 58.85%

499ers **a.m.** session

Bill Harper and **Peter Pinfield** NS 60.65%

Elizabeth Collins and **Mary Mils** EW 64.58%

499ers **p.m.** session

Suzanne Fryer and **Yvonne Wu** NS 61.38%

Peter Pinfield and **Bill Harper** EW 65.63%

Sunday Team Game Results

Jim Leuker, Tom Jacobsen, Kimberly Fanady, Peter Lit 6.88 silver points.

Erwin Linzner, Bob Klein, Sarita Mathiasen and Nancy Gunn 5.16 silver points

Santa Clara Regional Results

At least twenty Unit 509 players participated in the All Western Regional in Santa Clara at the beginning of September. **Peter Lit** leads the list of Unit 509 winners earning **32.95** points. He and his partner **Gary Macgregor** came in first in the All Western Open Pairs event. **Lynn Blumenthal** and **Evelyn Holtz** had a fabulous win coming in second in the Charity Open Pairs game. Lynn came away with **21.40** points and Evelyn with **20.38** by the end of the Tournament. Congratulations to all participants who racked up points.



ProAm Game Sept. 30



Mark Hersko and Maxine Reagh came in first for NS and Asher Nathan and Steve Carey came in first for EW (and overall) with twelve tables in play. Winner's prizes and door prizes were given. Helene Gay, Marty Lautze and Carol Zocchi won door prize bags containing \$10 and other goodies.



Unit Game and Lesson Sept. 19

Evelyn Holtz gave us a succinct lesson on the Lebensohl convention, used when opponents interfere over our opening no trump bid. It is a complex convention and Evelyn gave a good introduction to it. Jackie provided a lovely lunch of zucchini fritters, shrimp salad, fruit salad, brownies and pistachio cookies. And two weeks later she made lunch for over 120 people at our team game at the Fall Sectional!



Winners in the Unit Game were:

N/S: **Nancy Gunn** and **Bob Klein** (63.78%)

Jerry Besses and **David Mendel** (63.14%)

Lawson James and **Andy Andrews** (60.10%)

E/W: **Roy Redlich** and **Hans Von Boldrik** (63.62%)

Gary Robinson and **Sara Rothmuller** (58.01%)

Laurie Vree and **Judy Duport** (55.77%)

Instant Matchpoint Game Results

Finley 509 held the yearly Instant Matchpoint game on October 21. The overall winners were **Shelley Dunietz** and **David Mendel** NS with 62.5% and **Kathy Venton** and **John Oswalt** EW with 61.23%. Each pair earns one gold point, plus 1.60 red and .59 black.





My World Bridge Federation Experience by *Sara Rothmuller*



Early this summer, I received a phone call out of the blue from Vic Quiros (author of Vic's Views in the Bridge Bulletin each month) inviting me to a World Bridge Federation tournament in Poland. I thanked him for the invitation but told him my summer was already overbooked.

The second I hung up, my husband Paul cried out, "Sara, you are CRAZY!!! You tell me that a WBF tournament in Europe is at the top of your bucket list. NO WAY you should turn down that invitation!"

When I called Vic back to accept, he asked if I'd like to explore Vienna for 5 days on the way while we adjusted to the jet lag. He offered to get tickets for at least 1 concert each day! I definitely couldn't say "No" to this proposal!

I then discovered that my passport had expired. Luckily, I was able to get an appointment in the San Francisco passport office just days before my flight to Vienna. Phew!

Vienna is gorgeous! We explored on foot for hours every day, as we did once we arrived in Katowice, Poland!

At the bridge table we played for 7 days straight, and although we never experienced the thrill of winning, it was a fascinating experience that I'd do again in a heartbeat. Our opponents were from 33 different countries, with Americans being a minority. So many conventions I'd never heard of, such as our first opponents, juniors from Paris, played 8-12 opening No Trump! The director calls were easily resolved because we were all on camera, and the instant replay told the full story. We played behind screens the whole time, and often had a non English speaking screen mate. When they wanted to ask about an alert, they would draw a question mark on the pad of paper, and trying to explain was an interesting communication challenge. It was so much fun meeting bridge players from all over the world, many so obviously in LOVE with bridge. I can't wait to go again!

David Mendel New Life Master

Technically, David is not a member of Unit 509 but that is no reason not to publicly congratulate our friend on becoming a Life Master at the Unit 509 Sectional. He just needed a bit of silver and went over the line by earning silver points in the pairs game on Saturday.





David was taught duplicate bridge by his mother and played at lunchtimes with workmates for many years. After retiring in 2022, and a session on "Bridge in the 21st Century", Tony Jackson put him in contact with a mentor, Tom, in Chicago, and he spent many hours getting up to speed. David thanks all his partners for enduring all the mistakes he has made!

Unit 509 Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

Saturday, December 12, 2026

Petaluma Community Center

320 North McDowell Blvd. Petaluma, CA

Lunch is served at **11:30**, followed by our annual meeting.

The bridge game will start at 12:30.

Lunch includes barbecued chicken (stuffed portobello mushrooms for vegetarians), grilled seasonal vegetables, Caesar salad, potato salad, beverages and dessert.

The cost is **\$30.00** and includes both the lunch and the game.

Please secure your reservations by submitting a check, **with the name of your partner indicated in the memo field**. Cash is also accepted.

Checks should be made **payable to Unit 509** and must be received by **Monday, Nov. 30**. Please put your check in the big envelope at either the Bridge Gallery Petaluma game or at the Finley 509 game. Or, mail it to

Maxine Reagh

96 Bloomfield Rd.

Sebastopol, CA 95472

If you have questions, please contact Maxine at 707 953-0838 or at fnly509@gmail.com

Finley 509 Closed Wednesday, November 11th

The Person Senior Center will be closed in honor of Veterans Day



Passings



Patricia Gittings

Patricia Gittings, a long-time bridge player in Santa Rosa, died recently at the age of 97. Her long time friend and bridge partner of more than fifty years, Jacki Ortiz, remembers Patricia as a lovely, sweet, smart woman and an outstanding player, one of the best. They enjoyed many successes at National, Regional and Sectional tournaments together. Patricia was a Sapphire Life Master. Though Patricia did not return to face-to-face bridge after Covid, she played seven days a week online with her partner Gigi Marki. Patricia is survived by her husband, two sons and several grandchildren.



David Pankratz

Written by *Kathy Venton*

Dave Pankratz peacefully passed away on the morning of September 18, 2026. An avid and talented bridge player, Dave earned over 6,000 masterpoints throughout his bridge career. In mid-August, he played on BBO with Bob Klein, taking first place. Reflecting on that victory, Dave noted that it was the perfect high note on which to conclude his time at the bridge table.

Dave was dedicated to our bridge community, serving as the President of Unit 509 for six years. While president he helped the Unit purchase BridgeMates and start our Spring Sectional. Many members will fondly recall how he and a few other gentlemen elevated our annual Holiday Parties by donning elegant tuxedos for the luncheon and game—an occasion Dave thoroughly enjoyed. His passion for the game also took him around the globe, sharing his expertise as a bridge instructor on cruise ships worldwide.

Beyond the bridge table, Dave lived a remarkably vibrant and active life. He loved to dance and was a longtime member of a local West Coast Swing dancing group, serving as their Treasurer for numerous years. His lifelong commitment to scouting began early; he was an Eagle Scout and was later honored as an adult with the prestigious Silver Beaver Award for his volunteer efforts, which included helping run Boy Scout Camp Oljato in the Sierra Nevadas.

An enthusiastic hiker, Dave meticulously tracked his outdoor adventures. He hiked the John Muir Trail in sections, conquered the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and undertook a unique personal challenge in Santa Rosa: He bought a local street map and systematically walked every single street, crossing them off with a highlighter as he completed them.





Dave graduated from UCLA in 1966, attending during the legendary era when Lew Alcindor led the Bruins to three consecutive NCAA Championships. Following graduation, he was drafted and served as a military engineer during the Vietnam War. He then built a successful career at General Electric as a nuclear engineer, working on power plants across the United States, Spain, and Mexico.

In 2019 Dave married Michelle, later declaring that marrying her was the best decision he ever made. He found immense joy in family life, and Michelle's granddaughter, Emma, brought endless delight to his later years.

Condolences should be sent to Michelle Pankratz at: 3531 Zappa Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



I've got an abundance of news from Unit 507 ("U507") in this article. My last article was composed nine weeks ago.

We are holding our Fall Sectional on Saturday and Sunday, November 7–8. You can read the complete flyer with location and schedule on our [website](#) by clicking on this [link](#) offering pairs events on Saturday and teams on Sunday. A new event is a single-session 0–99 pairs on Saturday morning.

You can tune up for the sectional by trying out a new game, the second weekly club game. Beginning Thursday, November 5, the new game will run on Thursdays as well as Wednesdays, with the same directors at the same time and place: 11:00 AM in Friendship Hall of the Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd., with parking behind the church. You will find more information and be able to pre-register on our website linked above. The grand opening on November 5 is a club championship with extra masterpoints.

Other special games are on the calendar too: a Unit Championship (and second to last birthday game) on Wednesday, November 11, and Royal STaC games on November 18 and 19. For the rest of 2026, the Unit Board will cover the extra sanction fees for the STaC and Stardust games, so players won't see a surcharge for them.

In 2027, the U507 holiday party is scheduled at the church for Saturday, January 16. There will also be a one-day Non-Life Master Sectional on Saturday, February 20, also at the Campbell church. Stay tuned for announcements of details of both events on our website. Beginning in January, members who reach Life Master will receive a name pin from the Unit. At the Monterey Clambake Regional in January, the Unit is sponsoring a game in honor of Judy Fisher in recognition of a teacher/director/Board member who over nearly fifty years has probably introduced more players to bridge



than anyone else in our area. And in the spirit of the season, the Unit will contribute \$50 to the church's Christmas toy drive and encourages players at the church to give as well.

Now I look over the tournament trail since my last column to find where U507 members placed first overall, in their stratifications, and in their sections. At the Digital NABC played entirely online, Richard Reitman's team won the Soloway Knockout Teams, a national-rated event.

The All Western Championships produced the period's biggest haul. In the premier All Western Open Pairs Championship, Andrew Sinclair, Kayden Ge, Barbara Shukov and Mike Cailean each earned a section top. John Hodges won an open pairs game; Li Zhang, Elenalani Lam & Tsao-Tung Tsai, and Yannie Zhao each won a mid-flight pairs game; and Songning Qi won the Newcomer 99er Pairs.

Our members also succeeded in bracketed team events. Peng Cheng, Xiaoyu Cheng, Michele Liu & Yin Lin and, in a separate event, Norman Marks, Ronald Baron, Lynn Bartz & Ken Imboden won bracket 1; Bharat Kamdar and George Welch, Jane Michaels & Henry Koransky each won bracket 4; and Craig Hom & Louise Kirkbride and Shailesh Naik each won bracket 5. In the 0-10,000 bracketed teams, Floyd McWilliams & Clark Millikan won bracket 1, Li Zhang, Lynn Bartz & Anne Wilson won bracket 2, and Monica Bacon-Proctor & Bill Roman won bracket 4.

Stratification tops went to Kapil Bhalla, Li Zhang, and Amit Garg & Nitin More in open pairs games, Kumar Ramaiyer in a fast open pairs game, and Andrew Sinclair in the A/X Swiss. Section tops went to John Hodges and Richard Reitman (two each) and Michael Fleisher in open pairs games, Li Zhang in a mid-flight pairs game, and Mihran Dars, Craig & Louise, Jane & Henry, Dean Zhou, and Monica & Bill in Gold Rush games.

In more remote regionals, at the Oregon Coast regional, Barbara Shukov's team won bracket 1 of a knockout, and Richard Reitman earned three section tops, two in top-flight pairs games and one in an open pairs game. Online, Tsao-Tung Tsai won bracket 3 of an ACBL regional bracketed pairs game on BBO.

The Sparks regional was the most recent. Jung Hu & Simon Zheng won the charity open Swiss. Anne Wilson won the fast open pairs, and Betsy Wagner's team won bracket 4 of an open bracketed teams event. Jung & Simon added four stratification tops — three in open pairs games and one in the A/X Swiss — and Li Zhang's team topped stratification C in the charity Swiss. Li also had two section tops in open pairs games.

Turning to sectionals, at the Earthquake sectional in Morgan Hill, Luen-Jyh Luo & Brenna Wundram won the Lawson Sakai open pairs, Diane Shannon's team won the open Swiss, and Rebecca Sanchez won the 99er pairs. Stratification tops went to John Stremel in the open pairs and to Craig & Louise in both the 499er pairs and the Swiss.



At San Mateo's Unit 498 fall sectional, Marcia & Robert Dean won the A/X Swiss, and Michael Ravera, David Sisson & Michael Callahan won bracket 1 of the 0-4000 bracketed teams. Kapil Bhalla (open pairs) and Sumiye Minami & Jan Kiernan (Silver Rush pairs) had section tops.

Susan Maki had a section top in the open pairs at the Gold Country sectional. At the San Francisco fall sectional, Amit Garg & Kapil Bhalla and Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean each had a section top in the open pairs, while at Santa Cruz's Surf's Up sectional, Craig & Louise took a stratification top in the I/N pairs and Sandra Erickson one in the open pairs.

Congratulations to our newest U507 Masters: Vandana Chandra, Lin Han, Liya Li, Eric Takahashi, Ethan Wu (Junior); Julie Burkhart (Club); Peggy Bradley, Jesse Fang (Sectional); Michele Liu (Bronze Life); Raghu Agarwal, Li Zhang (Ruby Life); and Paul Nelson (Diamond Life).

If you miss playing in local club games with your friends and soon-to-be new friends, come out and support the new Thursday game. It may well encourage the opening of other local club games on other days in other locations.

Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



Happy Halloween (and Thanksgiving, since no newsletter until December)! The Stockton Club holiday decor includes this cute quilt by Maryanne Sievers. There is a plan to install a second rod on the opposite wall for smaller quilts so think about which of your handiwork you might want to share with the Stockton Club on a rotating basis. We hope this will help reduce our noise level during play.



Congratulations to not just one but two of our players on reaching Life Master since the last newsletter. Walter Jones needed less than one Gold point and won 2.5 Gold in Santa Clara playing on a team with his son Earl and our other new Life Master Terry Nagode! Unfortunately, Terry had needed 3 Gold points for his Life Master at that point, so he still needed half a point, which he subsequently earned and more in Reno last week! Walter's name is already on the Stockton Club's Life Master plaque but here is Terry in front of that plaque which will bear his name in a few weeks. Congratulations to these fine gentlemen who are always kind to their partners and opponents and a pleasure to have at the table. By the



way, they both achieved Bronze Life Master at the same time as Life Master since reaching 500 points under the pre-2010 plan.

We are also giving kudos to Rose Knutson, the Unit 510 Treasurer and chief decision maker regarding the coffee, hot chocolate, and various snacks that appear on the food tables for players. Rose reached Gold Life Master (2500 points) this month with a little help from Instant Tournaments on BBO. She also plays at the Stockton Club 3 times a week, scratching most of the time, attends Regionals, and goes on bridge cruises so the points add up quickly. We also appreciate Rose for being the "go to" person when we need a partner for the M-W-F games in Stockton.



There is a new website that ACBL emailed everyone about where you can check your current standing for the many masterpoint races at the Unit and District levels. I usually publish the results in the Spring DITR following the close of each year since points are totaled in January but not announced until February to allow for corrections at the National level. The usual people are in the lead in all the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races but there are some frontrunners in the Virtual category which is online points. They are Christine Hevener, Margaret Stovall, and Joan Canepa. If you would like to check your own status and didn't see the email, here is the address for you to bookmark: mp-races.acbl.ai and you only need your ACBL number; no password.

Board member Jack Fitzgerald went to a new audiologist in Lodi a few months ago and she tweaked his hearing aids so that he started hearing better than he had in years! He was so impressed that he arranged for her to make a presentation at the Stockton club and two others who followed up with her were also pleased with the results and are able to hear much better at the bridge table. Contact Jack if you would like her name and number.

One of our intermediate players, Doug Mason, was a regular at the Oak Park and Stockton NLM games until health problems forced him to cut back then stop altogether. He passed away in September. He was very enthusiastic and took bridge classes from Lorna and Wendy and was making good progress. He will be missed.

Zulka Dozier is back! Zulka was out for many months recovering from a medical problem and just started playing again this month and looks great! She is back just in time to take advantage of all the "extra point" games coming up. November and December are often low attendance months as usual players prepare for the holidays either hosting family or traveling themselves. But it is worth it to come play in person especially the days before and day after Thanksgiving as they will be Unit Championships. That means even a small game of 5 or fewer tables will award 3-4 masterpoints for first place and extra for everyone who scratches. But even before that,



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

STaC games will be held November 16, 18, and 20 in Stockton for Silver points—the hardest ones to accumulate for many players.

Extra point games continue in December with Club Membership games the week of December 10-18. And remember, there is food provided once a week on a rotating basis for both days and type of food. Cheeseburgers next week and November 2 will be Chinese food. After that, weekly pizza.

The Board meets November 16 so let any member know if you want something addressed or would like to have a Holiday potluck game this year. See you at the table!

