

# District 21 Unitscope

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started a new program to report the top three games for players with under 300 masterpoints. So far the leading pair is Elaine Simkins and Brad Stone with a 62.08% game. Don's program to give free plays to first time players has increased attendance.

Raymond Yue placed 2nd in the 500-1000 category in District 21. I think he was one of the first players to bid 1NT with a singleton ace, king or queen. There is much conjecture that it is not a good strategy.

The top three places in the Ace of Clubs 0-5: Sandy Powell, LecClier Kelly, Ken Falci; 5-20: category were Kathryn, David Welch, Dana Davis; 20-50: Paul Ferber, Larry Jackson, Stephanie McCarty; 50-100: Susan Powell, Judith & Robert Robyns; 100-200: Gene Richards, Sal Bulkley, Katz Cannell; 200-300: Jill Wallace, Jefri Donovan, Michael Schwimmer; 500-1000: Raymond Yue, John Swanson, Bobbi Kornbluth; 1500-2500: Bob Robbins, Satish & Kathy Lane; 2500-3500: Rich Scoggin, Sharon Bahry, Virginia Kellermeyer; 2500-3500: Gil Ramirez, Quentin Wilmot, Lin Goldsteinwere; Charlotte Falk (as pretty as the female lead in the movie "Gone with the Wind") won in the 5000-7500 category uncontested, as did Nels Erickson in the over 10,000 category.

The next Reno Sectional will be held April 19-23 at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks.

## Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

Have any of your friends and family ever groused about the frequency of your bridge game? Have you felt guilty or defensive, per chance? Well, now I have fortuitously found the perfect justification for my absences; bridge is good for your health! Yes, scientists from the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center did a study with those at a higher risk for the disease with either a genetic pre-disposition or family history.

Activities such as playing cards and doing crossword puzzles resulted in greater brain volume in structures of the brain involved in the disease and concluded that such brain-stimulating activities may preserve cognitive function. *The New England Journal of Medicine* did a previous study indicating that those activities along with such pastimes as reading and playing musical instruments were also beneficial. According to their study, the only beneficial physical activity was dance (please note that I tap dance between rounds and during sit-outs, thus covering all my bases!).

I can easily count a half dozen players at my club who are in their nineties who still play a very respectable game. I admire and respect their example, hoping to follow in their footsteps. And for those complainers in our lives, tell them to take good care of themselves and just join us at the table!

Now for the Unit 505 news update: the Folsom Bridge Center has found a new home at 8680 Greenback in the strip mall with California Family Fitness two miles west of their current location. It will boast better climate control and multiple restrooms down the hall. The grand opening is planned by June 5 or possibly sooner and will host a week of fine food and more masterpoints.

The Spring Sectional will be held for only two days this year, May 6 & 7 at the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. The first day will include a 299er seminar at 9:30 a.m. with Jim Houghton and will host both Open Pairs and 499er/NLM sessions. On Sunday, there will be double session Swiss Teams, one section Division A/X and the other

B/C/D (0-300, 300-1000, 1000-2000). Please contact tournament co-chairs Dave Willmott at [dwillmott@yahoo.com](mailto:dwillmott@yahoo.com) (phone: 916 709-8958) or Sam Sandusky at [samelayne@gmail.com](mailto:samelayne@gmail.com) (phone: 916 647-3211) with tournament questions or concerns and partnership chair Miriam Steinberg at [mirsteinbergsac@gmail.com](mailto:mirsteinbergsac@gmail.com) (phone: 916 607-4947; 916 971-4947) for partners.

The first Unit 505 NLM Sectional was held on February 11 & 12 at the Sacramento Bridge Center. The games, under the direction of Ted Muller, were well-attended. Stay posted for future NLM sectionals!

## San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

April means only one thing to your faithful columnist: it's baseball season! Can the Giants win in an odd year? Can the A's climb out of the cellar? Will Matt Cain get his mojo back? Will Sonny Gray get his mojo back? How many splash hits will there be this year? Will the Coliseum plumbing overflow? Will there be enough garlic on the garlic fries? Will your faithful columnist be there?

Oh yeah. Take me out to the ball game! Back at the bridge table, there's lots going on. Cardology's new Saturday afternoon game is off to a great start. The first three editions drew 9, 10, and 8 tables (the last two while competing with local sectionals). Director Edmund Wu runs a very pleasant, friendly, well organized game with good snacks, the most important part. All the info is on the club's website.

If you've got that old bridge jones on a Saturday, Cardology is the place to be. Get over there and check it out!

QuickTricks will hold its annual Pro-Am game this month, on April 17. Check out the club website at [quicktricks.org](http://quicktricks.org) for the conditions of contest and all the details. Come meet new people and get some free bridge tips. This game packs them in and is great fun; see you there!

This month's unit game will be held April 29. Lunch is served at 11:00, game time is noon. All unit games are at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough Street at Geary, and all are welcome.

Congratulations to our newly Master ranked: (Junior) Robert Pucci; (Club) Gil Gonzalez, Joanne Nino, Tom Pelliccioni; (Sectional) Charles Mann, David Sweet; (Regional) Sherry Ruskin; (NABC) Terry Levin; (Advanced NABC) Deborah Drysdale; (Bronze Life) Martin Kaye; (Ruby Life) Jeanette Shinsako.

Good going, all!

Welcome to our new members Stephanie Holbrook and Lisa Singer and transfers; Andy Andrews (Silicon Valley), Marvin Berkowitz (East Bay), Patricia Chiang (Marin), Tonya Grootendorst (Chicago), Paul Krueger (ACBL lists his previous unit as "foreign." That would cover a lot of possibilities; where are you from, Paul?), and Renee Perlman (New Jersey). Be sure to meet and greet these new players when you encounter them at the table.

Not sure how many Unit 506ers made it to the Spring NABC in Kansas City, but if anyone did anything great, we'll brag about it next month. Stay tuned.

Hope everyone is enjoying the arrival of spring. See you at the table.

## San Mateo/Redwood City

By Jackie Lowenberg

The Bayshore Bridge Center is abuzz with new players! We warmly welcome to our tables Gary Barton, Deborah Brusco, Ronald Friedman, Herb Lindberg, William

Pade, Anne Palu, and Bebe Pierce! New transfers into Numero 498 include Jean Fazzio, Michael Freda, Kathy Kelly, Martha Schurman and Susan Shaver.

Did y'all know that Raad Bunni teaches Bidding and Play of the Hand lessons before every 299er game on Tuesday and Friday mornings? Have you met the afternoon gang at the Burlingame club? Many of the 299ers are trying it out and finding that playing with the masters is really fun! Down the road, in Belmont, Jennifer Kuhn is running open games, in addition to teaching Easybridge! at the Holiday Inn Express. And if you work at Facebook, contact Wesley May for a club right there on campus.

Thursday nights are Barometer games in Burlingame, directed by Will Watson. A special 299er section is now included on the second Thursday of the month. Grab your convention card and come on down to meet the Unit 498 family. More info available on [unit498.com](http://unit498.com)

Our annual spring sectional was a major success by every marker. We filled 224 tables, and there was barely an empty pair of seats both days of the tournament. Joanne Cornbleet & Linda Kenigsberg won the Art Weinstein 99er trophy. The ladies were delighted, as it was the first time they attended our event. Loud applause goes to Marc Renson for his coordination with Canada College staff, Lynn Yokel and her assistant directors, and our ever dependable team of helpers from Unit 498.

The second Mentor/Mentee game of the current session was played on February 16 with plenty of generous Masters; our Mentees competed with the best of the best. The top winners of the day were: Maria Levy & Tony Baranski, 66.5%; Joanne Lewin & Claude Hughes, 62.71%; Lily Preiner & Arline Van Ness, 58.25%. The March game will end the first session of 2017. Sign ups for the next session, April to June will be available on the bulletin board at Bayshore.

Drum roll please. Ready? Set? Our newest Sapphire Life Master, Tony Baranski! Newest Gold Life Master, Cheryl Haines! Kudos Masters! And hearty congratulations to our newest Regional, Maria Cora Levy; Sectional, Kathy Miles; Club, Claire Pape; and Juniors, Fay Bigelow and Jeannie Lutticken.

Are you near your calendar? Set Saturday, April 22, for our next unit game. Janelle Van Rensselaer and Marge Paccetti are cooking up another outstanding event at Bayshore. Lunch starts at 11:30; game time, 12:15. Nobody does it better, and we're saving you a seat.

## Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Our walls in March and April are adorned with work by Susan Benich. Hand-knitted, beaded wire bracelets, a train depot done in crewel, lion and leopard in needlepoint, two embroidered shirts, an embroidered sampler and three embroidered train engines. The train theme just may reflect John Benich's career in the railroad business. Thanks, Susan, for sharing your talents!

A hearty welcome to our newest members, Janet and Lester Loops. Congratulations are in order for a number of our members. February saw some high game percentages at Unit 550: Josh Karter & Rick Zinman, 70.5%; and Henri Cooper & Mark Hasey. Lani Ray & Dick Wasserstrom were in the top 20% of MP earners at the NAP Burlingame Flight B finals. Congratulations also go out to members who have attained various Master levels: Leslie Davidson, Junior; Steven Nelson and Judy Osborn, Club; Gloria Reiss, Sectional; Kristin Smith, Regional; and Susan Benich, Silver Life Master.

Congratulations to all.

Our annual recognition game will be on Saturday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m. This is when we present the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards. It will be a two-section game with open and 299er sections. There will also be a 299er unit game on Saturday, April 22.

Nancy Wainer's Bridge Camp is April 6. Her Monday evening Beginning Bridge class continues to be large and enthusiastic, with over 25 students most weeks. Please sign up in advance for both of these offerings.

Free bridge lessons precede the Sunday afternoon and the Monday & Wednesday evening games. The Thursday NLM game is now an open game starting at noon instead of 10:00 a.m. Check our website for a new, once a month, Basic Bidding Review class for advancing beginners with fewer than five MPs.

On a sad note, we lost a longtime, respected and loved member in February. Bill McIntosh helped many of us with our game, having been a teacher and director for many years. Bridge wasn't Bill's only love; He was a past president of Gilroy Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, March of Dimes, and Little League. He volunteered with the Gilroy Garlic Festival as well as several other charities and was named Man of the Year in 1983. Bill was an avid duplicate bridge player throughout his life, and spent a great deal of his retirement as a director at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center as well as directing bridge games on cruises. Bill was a fixture at our center and will be missed by all. Our condolences go out to Bill's family and especially to our friend, his wife, Ellen.

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. Be sure to visit our Facebook page. To see the Unit 550 schedule and calendar, to get information on our Mentor Program, or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at [santacruzbridge.org](http://santacruzbridge.org)

## Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Nancy Stetson

We are saddened by the loss of Jon Merry. We express our heartfelt sympathy to his friends and family, especially his wife Gretchen. Jon's bridge family will miss him.

*Unit 509 Milestones:* Our hats are off to Kim Fusch and Maureen Scott who became new Junior Masters, and to Carmen Peace who reached Sectional Master status.

*Santa Rosa Club:* In February, Rose Marie Johnson & Randee Dimond, Kate Hill & Karen Aabel, Ben & Eileen Kuttick and Pat Lebeck & Judy Sitzman scored 70%+ in pairs games. David Pankrat & Kathy Venton (twice!), Randee Dimond & Jackie Ortiz, Sharon & Richard Radovich, Bob Rottmayer & Mary Lyons, Susan Snow & Oak Sawyer, Kate Hill & Sara Rothmuller, Henry Gaw & Bruce Mahood, and Brian and Karen Aabel scored 65%+ in pairs games. Evelyn Holtz, Shirley Blum, Chris Flindt & Asher Nathan scored 68% in a teams game.

Kudos to all!

*Bridge Gallery Most MP Winners:* February winners were Evelyn Holtz (A), Kathy Juarez (B), Ron Chestnut (C) and Bonnie Barnes (0-20). Way to go!

*Petaluma Club:* Cyrus Andari & Osman Guner, Barbara Simon & Wayne Kaneko, Anna Webster & Janet Natov, and Patty Shribbs & Roy Redlich scored 65%+ games. Nice!

PBC will be closed on April 22 so that players can attend the Marin Spring Sectional. April 29, unit game.

*BG Classes:* April 4, morning with Kate Hill, and April 6, evening with Kathy Venton, Negative Doubles. April 11, morning with Kate, and April 13 eve-

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