



# District 21 Unitscope

## Berkeley/El Cerrito/ Richmond

By Beer Dude

Wasn't much to write about in December for January, so Happy 2017 a month late as we embark on the "Magical Misery Tour" (w/apologies to the Beatles). December brought sad news twice, as we lost 2 of our long-time club denizens; Ara Hammond (who died in August), & Hana Totah, who died on Pearl Harbor Day. Ara was 95; Hana 73. Both were fun to be around.

We also bid farewell to Max Juni, who moved over to SF in late December; now our last nonagenarian still playing is Annette Goldberg (when she's not out cruising the world). My apologies for the dealing machine SNAFU that cost us the Wednesday STAC; I hand-made the Friday & Holiday Party games.

Thanks to all who brought the edible goodies to the Holiday Party, especially to Amy Hansell of U502 who brought killer currant mini-bars.

Unit games November 16; December 2 & 30 drew 7 1/2, 7, & 6 tables, respectively; the winners being Jack Shiffer, Tom & Shimizu, Eric & Susie w/69.17%, & "RoJo" (aka Roseanne Smith & Joanne Cobeen) finishing off 2016 w/a 67.92% rouser. At the B level, the 2 Bs (Bobbie Stricklin & Barb Taylor), John Love & Bob Post, Dexter & Gordon, & Ben Grubel & Bob Post w/67.08%. February games are the 4th & 22th. Our rank advancers: Rony Tal to Club (20+); Marcia Mattoon to LM (she finally got her needed metallic points); & Cris Barrere to Emerald LM (7500). Way to go, all.

Welcome newbie Frances McCoaker, plus transfers-in Karen Aldridge (East Bay) & Misook Jung (LA). New Club Masters (20+) are Elizabeth & Scott Wachenheim; Jan Kosel moved up to the NABC Master (200+) level. Newest Jr Master (5+) is someone I've never seen as a newbie/transfer-in: Margaret Anstrand.

At da club, Eric was the December MP champ by default (top winner is a U502 member; E was 2nd) he nosed out Dick by .07 to top the November LMs. Non-LM co-champs were the 2 Bs; Bob Post delighted the December field. Club championship game is the 8th. The heater works, so all's well.

Finally, don't forget our (almost) Spring Sectional March 3 & 4, pairs Saturday, teams Sunday, plus Flight B GNT qualifying both days as a concurrent event. Check out our ad (which is here someplace/on our website).

Tweak [beerman1949@gmail.com](mailto:beerman1949@gmail.com) to brag/gripe/suggest; unit info & game results available 24/7 @ [www.berunit497.org](http://www.berunit497.org)

## Carson/Tahoe

By D. Marie Bresch

Wishing all Bridge Players Happy New Year 2017!

My report for December was missing because I was in Hawaii. And when I returned, the Christmas rush took over, and now life has returned to normal. As I write this article I am looking out on a beautiful snowy landscape and will be catching up on some past happenings of Unit 465.

The results of our December unit board election are: D. Marie Bresch, Ruth Rouse, Bev Meyer, and Leona Pchelkin. Officers will be elected at the January board meeting.

The unit game was held on December 10 and Christmas Party was held at a local restaurant immediately after. Everyone had a happy time.

During December there were some unusual scores at the Cube bridge games: December 7: N/S 1st ABC, Bruce Moon & Larry Brilliant, 58.95%; E/W 1st AB, Roxanne Hart & Theresa Pinney, 58.94%; December 14: N/S 1st AB tie, Carole & John Sill, 56.55% and Bill Prouse & John Gaskill, 56.56%; E/W 1st A tie, Larry Brilliant & Bruce Moon, 58.63%, and Doug Smith & Geoff Stokes, 58.63%; December 28: 1st A tie, Brenda Howell & Paul Pugsley, 59.26%, and Bev Meyer & Paul Jorgenson, 59.26%.

Pretty awesome!

One of our senior players, Al Monroe, has been seriously ill and is in rehab at the Ormsby Rehab Center, corner of College Parkway and Ormsby, Carson City. He is very happy to see people. However, he has difficulty speaking. Please visit! He needs familiar faces. He is in Room 103.

## Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni

The New Year is already in its second month. For some, time passes quickly; or for others, very slowly. Though February is the shortest month of the year, it often feels like the longest, especially in cold, dizzily climates. So, make the most of this mini-month, beginning at the bridge table. When the weather outside is frightful, skedaddle to your local bridge center. You'll be nice, warm, and cozy, while playing your favorite card game.

Now, if we only had fireplaces, and a cupful of hot cocoa.

Mark Humphreys wrote a very thoughtful note to all of Unit 499. In 2016, changes were made, and a new bridge center was established, now known as the Contra Costa Bridge Center. Mark mentioned so many folks who helped move us forward, so the game wouldn't miss a beat. It's always nice to acknowledge others, especially when they teamed up together to make this monumental event a reality. The three wise men and directors of Contra Costa Bridge Center, goes to the following fellows: Mike Bandler, Bruce Johnsonbaugh, and Mark Humphrey. Of course there were also wise women; actually too numerous to mention, so all you gals who helped tackle the transition to our new place, Kudos to you, and all.

This month gives newbie players a super opportunity for you to make a point or two, by playing bridge February 4, at CCBC center, for a 99er Swiss Teams game. If you earn masterpoints, you'll enjoy the next day even more. It's Super Bowl time, and if your team doesn't win, you won't care as much, cause you scored. Flyers are available at CCBC, and Rossmoor with all the details. You can also find assistance for a teammate, by contacting Trisha O'Connor at [misbridgewc01@gmail.com](mailto:misbridgewc01@gmail.com) Reservations must be made by Monday, January 30.

Trisha is also beginning a new class. Don't get all jammed-up when learning bridge. Get a better flavor for the game, as Trisha O'Connor is taking the next step in helping you jazz-up your game. Classes begin at the end of January. You can contact Trisha at the above listed e-mail or by phone, 925 457-9995.

Welcome to the winners table who gobbed-up masterpoints. New Life Master

went to Kathleen Young, and Silver Life Master goes to Gerry Cunha.

Jerry and Winnie's Lamorinda Bridge Club in Orinda, is always on the hit parade. In December, they had ten tables, and climbing to the top of the heap, were Sanda Henry & George Baxgan with a 77.68% game. That placed the pair in 2nd position for the entire Western Conference. Also placing in the overalls were Russ Kirschenbaum & Kathy Wolf, Darrel Fung & Jerry Weitzner, Doug Handler & Seiko Hazanov. On Saturday, more players placed in the Western Conference: Conrad Robertson & Winnie Jasper, Susan Schlicht & Les Walker, and Carol & Mark Penskar. A big serving of praise to all who scored.

You'll find this and more at our website, [diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc](http://diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc)

Listen up! Did you hear? In December 2016, elections were held and our new president, elated drum-roll please, is Jackie Zayac. Anne Hollingsworth is our great vice president, Lyn Sacco, secretary, and Bill LeMaire, where money matters, is our insightful treasurer.

It's been a wonderful life, as we said goodbye to a dear friend and longtime bridge player, Ed Stokes. He and his wife Clara played bridge to the end, and were so admired. Ed was a very young 95. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Clara and her family.

As you all know, bridge is not just a complex game to play. It keeps our minds young, bright, and challenges the brain to process information sixteen ways at a time. Even though you had a bad day, and came in last, you socialized, laughed a little, and had some fun. It's what the game is all about. Now if I can convince myself of that. I hate losing, so one of my New Year's resolutions is to accept the outcome graciously, and not keep repeating, what a stupid mistake I made. I'm sure none of you have done that. Okay, this year let's be kind to ourselves, as well as others.

Ciao Bella.

## East Bay

By Tom Pajak

I'm not sure what it is about December and bridge, but as I write this in the 1st week of January, there just doesn't seem that as much happens in December to crow about as in other months. Having said that; The unit holiday banquet game on December 18 was a sell-out success. The East Bay Community Bridge Center was the venue where Unit 502 hosted a single-session game with open and 299er portions vying for the masterpoint awards. Grabbing the glory were Hugh Callahan & Dick Walker 1st N/S, and Grant & Greg Vance 1st E/W, followed by Jessica Lai & Big Lavanakul 2nd N/S, and Sidney Mar & Bonnie MacBride 2nd E/W in the open game. For the 299ers, a fine showing was by Gail Oraftik & Nancy Morton 1st N/S, Jeff Fountain & Lili Bassett 1st E/W, and kudos to Bob & Karen Cabrera 2nd N/S with Katy Kahn & her momma Fran Friesen 2nd E/W. After the bridge battle we had the banquet: hors d'oeuvres, homemade breads & cookies, four turkeys, two hams, baked stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, cranberry relish, desserts galore and too much other food to name. Nobody went home hungry, thanks to all the home cooking by the illustrious Unit 502 board and other volunteers. Special big thanks go to Betty Kael for her extraordinary organizing ability to carry this event off each year.

Big congratulations go to Ravi Bhalla, a prince at our games for his helpfulness and generous teaching ability. He placed in the overalls in a couple of senior

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