

District 21 Unitscope

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will someday thank me for challenging their declarer play by putting them in a 4-2 or 5-1 fit (the partner playing the 5-1 fit made an overtrick resulting in a top board; so who's to complain?).

I plan on leaving the hypertension medicine at home and instead just wait in anticipation for the curious errors and creative misunderstandings that might catch me off-guard. I kibitzed Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell last year and guess what? They aren't perfect either. Instead, I hope to give my mentee permission to flub a board, learn from it and put it behind her. I remember how once a mentor jumped down my throat after some horrible gaffe, and after she left the table for food, the *opponents* apologized to me. They understood that no one screws up on purpose and felt bad that I felt bad.

And I hope my mentee will treat me kindly in return. I treat my teacher well. After I do something especially infuriating, I pull out a homemade chocolate chip cookie and thank her for her patience. One day in anticipation of a rough game, I even brought half of a strawberry rhubarb pie from Whole Foods!

I hope to instill my passion for this crazy, hard, frustrating game in my mentee. To teach her bridge is really a fun game in spite of it all and not a life or death situation as some might lead you to believe. It is okay to actually laugh once in awhile (just don't set me off, or I won't be able to stop!). And most of all, to go home feeling glad you made it to the club that day.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Happy Valentine's Day, all you Unit 506ers!

A good bridge partner is a pearl beyond price, so be sure you appreciate yours. Ignore his mistakes, applaud his successes (after the opponents are out of earshot, of course) and bring him an extra cookie!

The deadline for this month's column was too early to report on the results of our always fabulous SF Winter Sectional, and the always wonderful Monterey Regional. Check back next month for bragging about the exploits of San Franciscans.

This month's unit game, on February 11, features a brand new 299er section. All you novices and newbies, come check it out! The open section will remain as usual. On March 11 we will celebrate our Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners. All games are at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough Street, at noon, and all are welcome.

Speaking of newbies, QuickTricks will offer its exceedingly popular Easybridge! class again this year starting January 30. Check out the club website, Quicktricks.org for all the details. Send your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to play bridge to QuickTricks, and they will become bridge junkies just like you!

Congrats to our Master rank advancers: (Junior) Kristen Beda, Brigitte Sandquist, Mark Sawchuk, Peggy Skornia, Thuy Tran, and Brian Wallace; (Club) Kevin Babock, John Vandeguchte; (Regional) George Bazgan; (Life) Julian Standen; (Gold Life) Marion Robertson; (Sapphire Life) Don Friedman; (Diamond Life) Ari Greenberg. We have no new members this month, remarkably enough, although Easybridge! will fix that! Our transfers are all old friends returning to the fold: Anne Derbes, Bob Schwab, Ted Pyle, and Edmund Wu. Welcome back to SF!

Hope everyone is grateful for this winter's rain: it's good bridge weather! See you at the table.

San Mateo/ Redwood City

By Jackie Lowenberg

Way to celebrate your 100th birthday: Have Marilyn Monroe (impersonator) sing to you; have almost 100 friends help you blow out your candles; then play a 62% game. This is on my bucket list. It was reality for Sal Ignoffo on December 30.

Congratulations Sal! What a guy!

The celebration for Sal continued at our January unit game, in his honor, to benefit bridge education for our local high school students. With a generous gift from the proceeds of the game, the Peninsula Youth Bridge program continues to inspire students of San Mateo, Mills, Burlingame and Hillsdale High Schools. Thanks again to the fabulous volunteer teachers: Mary Bates, Joan Bodlenos, Jeanie Kwong, Joanne Lewin, Donna Pellegrini, and Janelle Van Rensselaer. Helpers are the best, and they are Claude Hughes, Marcia Mehl, Vaughn Patterson, Camele Wanat, and Virginia Zapitz.

Unit 498 sends best wishes to all our players for making this a memorable year. To this point, the unit board has devised wonderful opportunities to advance your skills and make your bridge memories primo on the 2017 list.

First of all, we have a brand new round of Mentor/Mentee games on the calendar. It is not too late to contact Joanne Lewin if you need help finding a partner to participate with on the third Thursday afternoon of the month. What a fantastic way to share your knowhow and experience with a newer player! Please add your name to the list on the bulletin board because we have plenty of players who would love to have the experience of "playing up" with you.

Last year, our immediate past president, Ginny Wailes, inaugurated a new plan to help newer players progress: the Buddy Program. Advanced players sign up and offer a game or games to play with newer players. Check it out: it's informal and fun, and so helpful to those who appreciate the opportunity of playing in an open game with an experienced player.

Do you have a friend who would love to learn bridge quickly? Tell them about Easybridge! being taught by Jennifer Kuhn at the Peninsula Duplicate Club. Games are held Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 1650 El Camino Real, in Belmont.

In addition to Raad Bunni's Tuesday and Friday morning lessons at Bayshore, he is now offering semi private lessons at his home on Thursday mornings. If you are interested in furthering your "Play of the Hand" skills, visit Raad's website, sanmateobridgecenter.org for more information about the class and how to register.

We have three new members who are starting their year at Bayshore. We warmly welcome Mike Halliday, Kautubh Kolhatkar, and Beatrice Murphy!

Wait for it. Yes, there's the drum roll! Cheers to Glenna Cook, our newest Life Master! And hearty congratulations to all our advancers: Juniors: Janet Allara, Anna Brown, Patricia Linberg, Christopher Redlich; Club: Margaret Gilbert, Susan Hill; Sectional: Karen Leonardini; Regional: Eva Cheung.

Wishing y'all good luck at our open sectional, February 25-26. We're expecting a full house at the Grove on the campus of Canada College, so come early and enjoy the free parking and beautiful venue for our annual event. We are grateful to tournament coordinator Marc Renson, assisted by our prez, Ted Richmond, for planning this exciting bridge weekend.

Buckle up Buttercup. The bridge ride at Bayshore is the best!

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Major congratulations to Jim Slinger. A Diamond Life Master, Jim finished 1st overall in the Western Conference Winter STAC, amassing 32.05 masterpoints over the week with a different partner every day. This is the second time that Jim has earned that title. The tournament had 9,818 players participating, and seven of our Unit 550 members finished in the top 5%. Congratulations to Carol Maggipinto, Steven Smith, Dick Wasserstrom, Phil Rodriguez, Neil Smyth and Jim & Susan Slinger.

What talented members we have! Be sure to check out the current exhibit on display. It consists of work by five artists: photographs printed on metal by Ken Martin, photos in mosaic frames by Linda Hanson, watercolor by Nancy Wainer, paintings by Janet Tainty, and a watercolor by Carol Cowen. We are grateful to these artist members for sharing their work with us.

If you are a Unit 550 member and would like to exhibit your artwork at the club, contact Pam Benz.

A high percentage was attained in December by Sydney Reuben & Thomas Burke, 73.89%. That is a *really* high percentage: congratulations.

Congratulations also go out to Gina Brown and Carol Cowen, our newest Club Masters. Welcome to new member, Michael Modest, who transferred here from Modesto.

The open unit game is scheduled for Saturday the 11th, and the 299er unit game is the 18th. The Tuesday afternoon game offers lunches for an additional fee. The Friday afternoon game is now BYO Lunch.

Nancy Wainer's Bridge Camp is February 2. There are free lessons preceding the Sunday afternoon and the Monday & Wednesday evening games.

Did you know that we have a Sunshine Lady at Unit 550? If you would like the unit to send a greeting card to someone who is ill or in need of encouragement, if a member needs our support, or just to know that they are missed, contact Diana Schilling.

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. Be sure to visit our Facebook page. Also, to see the Unit 550 schedule or calendar or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Nancy Stetson

Breaking News: Unit 509 is doubly honored! Brian Haley was named ACBL District 21's Goodwill Ambassador of the Year by the District 21 board. Well deserved, Brian! Also, Roger Smith, ACBL national board member, District 21, appointed Nancy Gunn to a lifetime membership on the Aileen Osofsky ACBL National Goodwill Committee. Congratulations, Nancy! And Unit 509 board president Jane Bender announced the retirement of Ron Chestnut and Jan Gullarian from the board at our Holiday Party. Thanks, Ron and Jan for serving! The membership elected two new board members, Karen Weissberg and Mimi Armstrong.

Unit 509 Milestones: Shout-outs to new Junior Master Bonnie Barnes, Advanced NABC Master Nancy Stetson, Sapphire Life Master Nancy Gunn and Diamond Life Master Evelyn Holtz (who achieved this status on her birthday!)

Santa Rosa Bridge Gallery: 70%+ pairs game winners in December were Karen

& Brian Aabel and Erwin Linzner & Larry Borsian. 65%+ pairs game winners were Sharon & Richard Radovich, Pat Frenaye & Mary Omodt, Candace & Brian McGuire, Kate Hill & Nancy Stetson, Sue Campbell & Eleanor Wales, Meryl Fischer & Tom Gee, Larry Spanier & Jonathan Cohen, John Vion & Howard Valfour, Sara Rothmuller & Gary Robinson, Karen Weissberg & Kathy Venton, Brian Haley & Wendy Zukas, Kate Hill & Sara Rothmuller, and Richard Zalenski & Karen Rice. And 63% teams game winners were Bill Kirm, Susan Kirm, Jan Gullarian & Jane Bender; and Kathy Venton, Ron Chestnut, Ron Welch & Lynette Ehrlich.

Bridge Gallery Most MP Winners: For December: Erwin Linzner, Patty Hertz, Barbara Norman and Judy & Jim Dupont. For Year 2016: Erwin Linzner, Patty Hertz, Barbara Norman and Ed Flowers.

Oakmont Club: 65%+ winners were Eldon Modisette & Conrad Larkin.

Petaluma Club: 70%+ winners were John Kozero & Gary Robinson, Allen Beallo & Shari Weiss and Robert Liss & Jim O'Brien.

Coming up in March: Competitive Bidding, Bridge Basics II, will start Thursday mornings March 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m. with Kate Hill and Tuesday evenings, March 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m. with Kathy Venton.

March 18-19, Santa Rosa Sectional; see poster on our Facebook page. New start times both days are 10:00 a.m.!

The Buzz: (1) Thank you, Maxine Reagh, for organizing this year's Holiday Party. Our "hostess with the mostest." (2) Sara Rothmuller and her partner (Harvey Brody) finished 1st in one of a two-part session in the Orlando national tournament.

(3) The Bridge Gallery has some "party bridge" players joining us, sometimes playing strong two bids and other "old fashioned" bids. Kathy Venton asks you to make them feel welcome and supported, so please do not give them unsolicited advice. If they ask you, please don't overwhelm them with too much information or rush them; you can always take a late play. Also, please refer them to the director for more information on "modern" bridge. Thanks!

(4) Shirley Ward, we hope you mend soon after your nasty fall!

If you know of someone in Unit 509 who could use a "get well" ray of sunshine, email Pat Frenaye @ pfrenaye@sonic.net or call her at 707 800-7647 and she'll send them a card on our behalf.

Please send items or corrections for Forum to nancyemilystetson@yahoo.com Sometimes a longer edition of Forum is posted on our Facebook page. Go to Facebook and search for ACBL 509.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

I have little to report this month, due partly to the Holidays and corresponding lack of tournaments. I'll mention first because it's a change that our spring sectional coming up in March will have a different format. The Saturday and Sunday events will be held, as usual, at West Valley College, but there will be no Friday afternoon events and the Friday evening game will be held at the San Jose Bridge Center. The address will be provided on a flier elsewhere in this paper. Attendance did not merit holding Friday events at the College.

During the December Western Conference Holiday STAC week, several unit members had games over 65%: Jack Clinch & Rita Tingley (71.62%), Jeffrey Pugh & Jennifer Stern, Mindy Fooks &

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