

District 21 Unitscope

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The Sacramento Bridge Center recently honored Lyn & Phil Benner with a farewell cake, wishing them well on their move to Florida. They will be greatly missed. While speaking of eating, I would like to acknowledge SBC player Nick Smiley, who never ceases to delight club members with goodies such as an egg casserole for morning lessons, pork buns, tamales, a complete buffet and two cakes from Ettore's. His continuous generosity is greatly appreciated!

And, on Friday, February 3, Marc Grunseth surprised his partner Lilyan Edelstein with an enormous and scrumptious German chocolate cake from Freeport Bakery for her "special" birthday; she won't divulge which, but every birthday for someone that sweet should be considered special.

On Martin Luther King Day there was a record tie for attendance, 28 ½ tables. Eight chairs had to be borrowed from a neighboring dentist's office! (Hopefully, no patients had to be turned away!)

Joy Hughes did a valiant job feeding such a mob!

Club member Mabel Moffat became a Life Master at the Monterey Clambake Regional after placing 1st in the Knockout Bracket 5 along with Myrna Rudman, Desi Soto, and Elizabeth Sachs. I learned this over a terrible lunch at the Hyatt. It's a good thing the rooms there come stocked with refrigerators.

The Arden Manor Bridge Club celebrated the January birthdays of Jean Mac Donald, Lorraine Day and Amnon Igra with a strawberry white chocolate mousse cake from Ettore's European Bakery. Not a crumb was left. Thanks to Sally Wheeler-Valine for her expert selection!

The January unit game in Folsom was a big success highlighted by Dave Willmott's chile (he will gladly share the recipe). Now for (I promise) the last mention of food: Bridge Works will continue to offer \$1.00 Hot Dog specials unless there is a potluck such as on February 14.

Classes have been in progress at various clubs including: Foothill on Mondays at 4 (beginners "Bidding in the 21st Century"); Folsom, beginning on Tuesdays at 2:30 and play of the hand Wednesdays at 2:30 and at the Sacramento Bridge Center; beginning and intermediate directed play on Fridays at 9:30, play of the hand on Saturdays at 10:30 and "Bidding in the 21st Century" on Saturdays at 1:00.

Now for game news. Lincoln Hills will be hosting an exchange with Roseville Sun City at the Orchard Creek Lodge Ballroom on February 22 at 10:30 including a brunch buffet. Call Karen Kerényi for further information at 434-6050. The Folsom Bridge Center will be hosting Swiss Teams on Thursday, February 23. The Sacramento Bridge Center is hosting charity games every Saturday and Sunday at noon, awarding 3-4 times extra MP.

The end-of-year results for Ace of Clubs winners are as follows: 0-5 Gary Mc Cormick; 5-20 Christine Vanderliet; 50-100 Joel Lesser; 100-200 Jim Coke; 200-300 Susan Haynie; 300-500 Vince Marek; 500-1000 Sarah Towne; 1000-2000 Laurie Vath; 1500-2500 Julius Kerényi; 2500-3500 John Jefferson; 3500-5000 Ann Mc Clelland; 5000-7500 George Lim; 7500-10,000 Ted Muller; 10,000+ Veronica McMurdie.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

March: in like a lion, out like a lamb. As I write this, it's raining with the forecast calling for a wet week ahead. All last year I importuned bridge players not to waste water, and now thankfully rain is coming down in buckets. Makes for good bridge weather; stay dry and play cards!

The SF Winter Sectional in January was a grand success! The place was packed. The table count was up by 35 tables over last year. Everyone and their mothers were there, bridge players stuffed into every nook and cranny of the Pomeroy Center. We almost had to set up a few tables next door in the monkey house at the zoo.

Of course, Unit 506ers distinguished themselves as always. Congrats to our winners: in the pairs, Sid Lorvan & Mark McCarthy, two session open; Kevin Babcock & Christina Lo, newcomer; Emily Francis, side; Steve Kipperman & David Strauss, Side (72% score!); in the Swiss, Eric Mayefsky & Jennifer Lin, Bracket I. Many others had section tops and strat placings. Nice going all! Thanks as always to our hardworking unit board of directors and tournament directing staff who make the sectional a terrific event, and to all of you for the great turnout!

The unit game schedule marches on with our annual celebration of our Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners on March 11. Did you win? Did your friends win? Did your frenemies win? Come applaud the successes of all our winners. Lunch is at 11:30, game at noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough Street at Geary. All are welcome.

Congrats to our Master ladder climbers: (Junior) Rafael Garcia, David King; (Club) Bill Caldwell, Jo Streich; (Sectional) John Fisher, Deepak Ramathan; (Silver Life) Martha Keller; (Ruby Life) Chris Friday. Well played all!

Welcome as always to our new members Adam Ross and Neila Waters. Be sure to say hello to them when you meet them at the table.

Finally, we sadly say goodbye to Carolee Charlton, who graced our daytime games for several years. She always came to the club dressed to the nines and full of wit. She will be missed. Our condolences to her friends and family.

Good luck to everyone going to the Kansas City NABC. Win big and make us proud! Your overburdened columnist has to stay home and work.

See you at the table.

San Mateo/Redwood City

By Jackie Lowenberg

Thank you Joanne Lewin! The first game of this year's Mentor Program was well attended and so very appreciated by all the mentees. Joanne once again invigorated the program and signed up many advanced players to mentor our I/Ns. We thank all of our Masters for their generosity and for sharing their wisdom and experience: Loretta Baines, Jay Bates, Jan Grove, David Hoffman, Claude Hughes, Anne Javer, Norm Kalman, John Lawton, George Prozan, Marc Renson, Ted Richmond, Bill Shaughnessy, Danna Sorenson, Mark Sorenson, Joel Steinberg, Carl Sutherland, Ruth Tuchman, Ginny Wailes, Aster Wu, and Dariush Youssefi.

Congratulations to the mentor/mentee pairs who were winners in the open game: 1st overall, Sheila Felker & George Prozan, 63.20%; 2nd, Joanne Gates & Marc Renson, 57.67%; 3rd, Cheryl DeGolia & Joel Steinberg, 56.04%.

We look forward to the next game, the third Thursday of the month!

It's going to be a great weekend at the Grove on the Canada College Campus, February 25-26! Our Spring Sectional is always a blast, and once again, Marc Renson, tournament coordinator, and Ted Richmond, unit prez, have planned a wonderful event for our bridge playing pleasure. We'll have a large, bright and beautiful room and free parking and easy cafeteria offerings.

Just bring on the bridge boards!

Do you ever wish you had an email ad-

dress list of our players or a handy schedule of all our unit games and sectionals? Did you know that we currently have 534 members, or wonder how many of those are Life Masters? Do you need detailed information to start figuring out approximately how long it will take you to become a Grand Life Master? If so, shoot me an email, and I'll send our unit directory and all the accompanying unit information, at: jackielowenberg@gmail.com

Speaking of Life Masters, congratulations to George Prozan, our newest Ruby Life Master! We proudly salute the rest of our advancers: Juniors: Jaleh Arbian, Robyn Lee, Ezra Mowray and Kaiwen Wang; Club: Kathryn Barnard, Devlin Delaney, Dominik Dudzik, Ram Moorthy; Sectional: David McLeod, and Nancy Palmer.

Can you play on Thursday night? Lorelei Greenfield reports from the field that "there was a great turnout by the newer players for Will Watson's always amazing Thursday night Barometer Game on February 9. Mark your calendars and show up for good competition, good wine and great camaraderie." She added that "there is nothing better than finding out right away that you shouldn't have taken that finesse." Will has made it easy for newer players to compete in their own strat.

The second Thursday night of the month has been earmarked for the two strats, but Will would gladly make it a weekly feature if enough players show up!

Welcome to our newest members: Carol Lashman, Katie Layendecker, Arthur Lund, Tish Macginley and Kathy Zmay. We are also delighted to include the following transfers into our unit: Freya Charney, Stan Charney, Kenneth Hui, and Debbie Lundahl. We look forward to meeting you at the tables! And to meet us, check out our Facebook page, [ACBL-unit498](https://www.facebook.com/ACBL-unit498) where you can find pics of our events and games and our very sporty players.

Come on down and play! Bayshore is the best.

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Unit 550 president Ken Llacera was honored by the ACBL in recognition of his service to our district, specifically in displaying goodwill among his fellow bridge players. Ken has been appointed to a lifetime membership to the prestigious Aileen Osofsky ACBL National Goodwill Committee. Congratulations, Ken.

It's time for the Santa Cruz Rising Stars Sectional. On March 11 & 12, all 499ers are welcome to participate in this fun and friendly annual event. The tournament is held at The Kirby School, 425 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz 95060. You'll find a link on the Unit 550 website.

Our members traveled to the Monterey Regional. Earning 1sts were: Susan & Jim Slinger, Denis Webb & Claire Swetland, Peter & Irma Andrews, and Mary Pulliam as part of a Swiss Team. We also had a number of members in the top 25% MP earners: Peter Gelfand, Jim Slinger, Ken Llacera, Denis Webb, Claire Swetland, Rich Hill, Peter and Irma Andrews. Congratulations to all.

High percentages at home were garnered by Jim & Susan Slinger, 70.14%; and Jan Winham & Judith Murdock, 71.83%.

Every month, players who have had 70% or better games are recognized in this column. A name that keeps popping up is one of our newer members, Sydney J. Reuben. When asked how she came to the game, and why she plays it, Sydney replied: "We were a game-playing family and my dad taught us bridge. With five players in the house, there was always a game going. I married a man who was a

top notch player, way out of my (bridge) league. I played duplicate only a couple of times because it was very stressful for me. Decades later, I moved to Santa Cruz and started attending Nancy Wainer's monthly bridge camp. Eventually I added Ken Llacera's Wednesday evening lessons, and later the Monday evening 199er game. I've been playing "seriously" for about a year and reached the level of Club Master last fall. I've added a third game each week, which is an open one; what chutzpa! I've been very impressed with the players at all levels. They are welcoming to newcomers and happy to answer questions. The emphasis on kindness and helping one another that I see in Unit 550 is truly wonderful. I have the time to devote to learning this fascinating game since I now choose my own hours as a Life Coach and a freelance editor. I also enjoy singing with the Threshold Singers, writing, walking, and spending time with my two daughters and six grandchildren." Thank you, Sydney, for sharing your story with us.

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

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 or calendar or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at santacruzbridge.org

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Nancy Stetson

Monterey Regional Tournament: Cheers to our Unit 509 "home team" players Ron Chestnut, Paul Hoge, Conrad Larkin, Gary Robinson, Erwin Linzner, Cathy Wagener, Maxine Reagh, Larry Spanier, Rose Baltusaitis, Mike Livenspargar, Brian Halley, Nan Halberg and Nancy Stetson for their 1st place wins, and to our top five masterpoint winners Erwin, Gary, Sara Rothmuller, Mike, and Brian.

Honolulu Regional Tournament: Richard Zalenski & Brian Haley had a 1st in a pairs game. Pam Schrock, Bruce Mahood, Brian & Richard won gold in a teams game.

San Francisco Sectional Tournament: Larry Spanier, Jonathan Cohen, Mark Hersko & Mary Omodt took 1st place in a teams game. Nice.

Unit 509 Master Milestones: (Club) Jim & Judy Dupont, Ed Flowers, Stephanie Poley; (Sectional) Doug Schrock, Larry Soley; (Life) Ron Chestnut, Nancy Stetson.

Santa Rosa Club: 70%+ pairs game winners in January were Richard Zalenski & Brian Haley, Sharon & Richard Radovich, and Jackie Ortiz & Patricia Gittings; 65%+ winners were Kathy Venton & Asher Nathan, John & Carlene Reininga, Richard Zalenski & Susan Kirn, Lynn Westoby & Jean Polley, Carl Tillmanns, Jr. & Joanne Argyres, Kate Hill & Sara Rothmuller, Lynn Blumenthal & Eleanor Wales, Nancy Stetson & Paul Hoge and Harley & Joni Conner. 54% team winners were Jackie Ortiz, Evelyn Holtz, Erwin Linzner & Larry Borsian, and Richard Zalenski, Bruce Mahood, Nell Magnuson & Harley Conner.

Bridge Gallery Most MP Winners: For January, Jackie Ortiz (A), Larry Spanier (B), Barbara Norman (C), and Lynette Erlach & Carole Williams (0-20).

Oakmont Club: 65%+ winners were Judy Kayan & Florence Boxerman and Walter Schilpp & Jim Oswald.

Petaluma Club: 70%+ winners were Robert Liss & Jim O'Brien; 65%+ winners were Karen Weissberg & Irma Ashley. PBC will be closed March 18 so that players can participate in the sectional

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