

District 21 Unitscope

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Doesn't May make you feel like a spring chicken? The weather is warm and sunny, gardens and trees are flowering, people seem happier and friendlier, summer is just around the corner, and of course, there's baseball! The season puts a bounce in your step. So bounce on over to your favorite club and celebrate spring with some bridge.

There's lots coming up: The Western Conference Spring Fling Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STAC) gets underway on Monday, May 8 and continues all week. STAC is your chance to win silver points at your regular club game. Post a big score and you'll make the Western Conference overalls and win double digit silver points.

This month's unit game takes place on May 13 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough at Geary, at noon. The unit games now feature a separate novice section (499er/Non-Life Master), which has been very well attended in its first few months. Come one come all, there's a game for everyone. Bring your mom and celebrate Mother's Day at the bridge table!

In case you haven't been to QuickTricks lately, the club's Monday night games now start at 6:45 instead of 7:00. Come play and get home a little earlier.

And of course, the San Francisco Summer Sectional is almost here! Make plans now to join us at our usual great location, the Janet Pomeroy Center out by the zoo, for lots of bridge, snacks, and fun on June 10 and 11. Between sessions, you can visit the animals, take a hike down to Ocean Beach, or stroll around nearby Lake Merced, or you can just sit indoors and geek out over hand records. Check out the Unit 506 website for all the details.

Congrats to all those scaling the masterpoint heights this month: new Junior Master James Levin; Club Master Emily Francis; Regional Masters Chip Graves and Doug Weil, and Silver Life Master, Tim Cohler. Good playing, everyone!

Welcome to a flock of new members: Deborah Autzeh, Lauren Bowling, Richard Dirickson, Isabella Lee-Rubio, Judith Schenckan, Julia Susser, and Scott Thomason; and transfers Barbara Gersch (San Mateo), Max Juni (BER) and Philip Leong. Be sure to say hello to these new players when you meet them at the clubs.

Finally, good luck to everyone at the big Sacramento Regional at the end of the month. I'm sure San Franciscans will cover themselves in glory as always! Have fun and see you at the table and by the pool.

San Mateo/ Redwood City

By Jackie Lowenberg

Almost a year ago, at our Cinco de Mayo-themed annual meeting, we installed our new president, Ted Richmond, and the 2016 Board of Directors. Since then, our membership has leaped; participation has grown, and we have seen capacity crowds at our unit games and sectionals. We've celebrated centennial birthdays, had energetic parties, sponsored bridge lessons for Peninsula high school students, and grew our Mentor/Mentee program.

We thank Ted Richmond for his lifelong commitment to bridge and for giving back to the game with his leadership and support. Over the last two years, he established a new tradition of hosting our Spring and Fall Sectionals at Canada College. This year, board member Marc Renson accepted Ted's torch and planned sectional events that were wildly successful. Along with our web master, Mary Bates, Marc instituted a reservation system on our unit website. Mary continually updated our website through the year, in addition to editing and publishing our monthly news magazine, *The Unitizer*. Janelle Van Rensselaer led the way for record breaking attendance at our unit games, along with co-chair Marge Pacchetti and regular volunteers Joanne Lewin, Sheila Felker, Elizabeth Molumphy, Liz Olsen, Donna Pellegrini, Ginny Zapitz and Mark Sorenson.

Loretta Baines has been the backbone of the unit, wearing many hats. In addition to being *Forum* editor for two years, she has been a past unit treasurer and president, and is now retiring once again as treasurer after another three years on the job. In addition to being a director on the board with presidents Jim Dean and Ginny Wailes, Linda Schwarz has been vice president for the last three years. She will always pitch in to help, and she has been the face of our unit as partnership chair at our sectional tournaments.

Ginny Wailes, our immediate past president, has been our rock for the last few years, providing guidance, support, and a helping hand, as well as representing us at District 21 meetings. Lorelei Greenfield, our newest board member, extended her enthusiasm to reviving interest in our Thursday night Barometer games.

As for me, I've been the unit scribe for the last two years, while playing poster child for a struggling but obsessive bridge lover.

We are delighted to add the following list of names to our unit roster: Aaron Chen, Carina Holcomb, Sheila Koch, William Lee, Andrea Vera, Audrey Poppers, Michelle Rodriguez, Marc Rusli, Jayden Shi, Adam Thomas, Olivia Umstead, Jake Warsaw, Grace Williams, Pauline Wong, and Kevin Xu. Transferring into our unit this month are Lydia Bolinger, Robert Canty, Leroy Kelly, and Kris Tejwani. Welcome, one and all.

Congratulations to Dana Scadden: she achieved Life Master and Bronze Life Master, all in the same month! Along with Dana, we are proud of our Junior Master advancers: Mike Halliday, Xinpeng Huang and Barbara Lewis.

We look forward to two exciting events in May, and we hope you'll save the dates. Please join us for dinner, the annual meeting, and a super-charged barometer unit game, directed by Will Watson on Thursday night, May 11. We will thank the outgoing board that evening and honor our Mini-McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs awardees. Are you ready to meet the new board? The following members will be installed as directors; officers to be announced after the meeting: Fran Gaura, Lorelei Greenfield, Dennis Jackson, Joanne Lewin, Jackie Lowenberg, Marge Pacchetti, Marc Renson, Ted Richmond, and Janelle Van Rensselaer.

On May 21-22, we are hosting our annual limited (under 500 points) sectional, at the Bayshore Bridge Center. Please find reservation forms and details for all our events on our website at www.unit498.com. We're delighted to say that tables fill quickly, so respond early. There's lotsa great bridge on the bay in Burlingame. We hope you join us.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Nancy Stetson

We are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of Ann Waterman. She had a big heart and a big smile no matter what was going on in her life. And she generously shared her love of cooking at our Saturday games. We will miss her very much.

Results of Santa Rosa Sectional: 1st place pairs winners: David Pankratz & Kathy Venton; Mark Hersko & Mary Omodt; Sue Campbell & Eleanor Wales; Sharon & Richard Radovich; 1st winners: Bob Klein, Erwin Linzner, Cecelia Zachar, Shirley Blum, Barry Samuel, Jonathan Cohen, Ron Chestnut, Ron McEwan, Jane De Bryn, Peg Devine, Karen Rice, Bob Rottmayer, Kim Morris and Mary Lyons. Most MP winners were Kathy Venton, David Pankratz, Erwin Linzner, Bob Klein, Mary Omodt & Mark Hersko, tied. We're proud of you all!

Unit 509 Milestones: A tip of our hats to new Junior Master James Vick, new Club Master Cathy Netz, and new Sectional Masters Richard and Sharon Radovich and Judy Sitzman.

Santa Rosa Club: In March, Brian & Karen Aabel, Jan Conklin & Barbara Norman, Conrad Larkin & Ken Koutz, Jean Polley & Mary Hartman, Kathy Juarez & Jan Gullarian and Sharon & Richard Radovich scored 70%+ in pairs games. Nancy Gunn & Nancy Stetson, Cecelia Zachar & Brian Sullivan, Jane De Bryn & Ron Chestnut, Wendy Zukas & Henry Gaw, Pat Scoville & Patricia Gittings, Richard Zalenski & Karen Aabel, David Anderson & Alan Loebel, Nancy Stetson & Wendy Merget, Madeline & Terry Welsh, Evelyn Holtz & Patricia Gittings, Pam Schrock & Richard Zalenski, Lynn Westoby & Jean Polley and Brian Haley & Wendy Zukas scored 65%+ in pairs games. Jennifer Jones, Bob Klein, Lynn Blumenthal & Sara Rothmuller scored 68% in a teams game. Kudos to all!

Bridge Gallery Most MP Winners:

March winners: Shelly Dunietz (A), Ron Chestnut (B), Barbara Norman (C) and Joni Conner (0-20). Way to go!

Oakmont Club: Jim Oswald & Phil Essig scored a 70%+ pairs game and Robert Keays & Fikry Galal, Hugh Kellogg & Conrad Larkin and Dave & Joan McDonnell scored 65%+ in pairs games.

Nice going!

Petaluma Club: Susan Mullaly & Bill Grasse scored a 70%+ pairs game and Tom Kuehne & Betsy Breezel, Gail Sickler & Karen Rocco, Carolyn Zocchi & Philippe Edouard and Osman Guner & Crus Ansari scored 65%+ pairs games. Nice! May 6 and 7, Jan Lee will be showing her art during Open Studio weekend at 1040 Garfield Drive, Petaluma.

Western Conference Spring STAC week games are May 11 & May 15 (earn silver points).

BG Classes: In May, Bridge Basics I, Tuesday evenings with Kathy V. and Thursday mornings with Kate Hill. Four Tuesday mornings learn how to Count Cards with Kate H. Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., free mini-lessons on Redoubles with Kathy V., followed at 6:30 p.m. with a <750 game.

BG Calendar: Mondays, 9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m., beginning May 1, a new 0-20 Newplicate Game will start with Brian Haley directing. Players are eligible to earn masterpoints, ask questions about bidding and get answers from Brian in "real time." Supervised Play with Rande Dimond will resume on May 30.

Coming up in June: June 21, The Longest Day, our annual fundraiser for Alzheimer's in partnership with ACBL. If you have something to donate for the raffle, please call Kathy V. at 591-5015.

The Buzz: (1) Our very own Sara Rothmuller came in 479th in the nation for earning the most MPs (512.55) in 2016. Woo-hoo, Sara! (2) Kudos to Mimi Armstrong for leading a successful sectional. (3) Ken Koutz and Karen Aabel tied in the Thursday evening Reverses contest. (4) Peter Lit drove two hours from Elk to join us at the awards ceremony as a Mini-McKenney winner, then stayed to play in the unit game with Jackie Ortiz. Come back soon, Peter. (5) Speaking of the awards ceremony, thanks to Barbara Norman for organizing it and Brian Haley for all his Hollywood-ish fanfare!

Did You Know That: Ron Welch graduated from high school at age 16, from medical school at age 24, began working at Kaiser at the age of 28 in the department of psychiatry and retired at 60. Maybe not quite a "Doogie Howser, M.D.," but remarkable achievements!

If you, or someone you know in Unit 509, has done or is doing something of interest in their non-bridge lives, please drop me an email. I'm curious!

Please send items or corrections for *Forum* to nancyemilystetson@yahoo.com. Sometimes a longer edition of *Forum* is posted on Facebook "ACBL Unit 509 Santa Rosa CA."

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

The new format of our Spring Sectional worked out as well as could be hoped. The Friday evening session filled the San Jose Bridge Center without overflowing it. Many unit members had success at the sectional. A middle school pair including Arthur Zhou won the Open Pairs with a 70% game. First in the other direction were Joel Koransky & Ken Rosenfeld. Vera Huelbig & Pat Wong won the 499er game.

At the West Valley College venue, Tsao-Tung Tsai & Luen-Jyh Luo won the two-session Open Pairs. Earning section tops in that event were Xin Ge, Kevin Rosenberg, and Mansoor Gowani & Ray Yuenger. In the Silver Rush Pairs, John Watson-Wil-

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Tournament Trail

Diablo Valley Spring Sectional

Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon, Calif.
April 29-30, 2017

Sacramento Spring Sectional

La Sierra Community Center, Carmichael, Calif.
May 6-7, 2017

Palo Alto NLM Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View, Calif.
May 6-7, 2017

Great Western Spring Fling STAC XVIII

Local Clubs, Western Conference & Associates
May 8-14, 2017

Lone Cypress Sectional

Bridge Center of Monterey, Marina, Calif.
May 19-21, 2017

San Mateo I/N Sectional

Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame, Calif.
May 20-21, 2017

CALIFORNIA CAPITAL REGIONAL

DoubleTree Hotel, Sacramento, Calif.
May 29-June 4, 2017