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## **Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond By Mark Kornman/The Beer Dude (497)**

Happy autumn – I wrote this whilst in MD before flying home on the 12th. Not much to write about – reopening is viable, but not enough player want to show up – I need 4 tables for a semblance of a game. We'll try again October 20 – if that doesn't pan out, I'm giving up until 2022.

Not much on the in-out front – we got a couple transfers-in. We lost long-time denizen Joyce Demercurio in late August – she was 88.

Giants are rolling along; hopefully they KO'd the Bums by the time I got back. Injuries are messing w/the 49ers, but at least Wiggins decided to get vaxxed so to give W's life until Klay returns in January.

Maybe we'll be in Monterey, maybe not. Until then, get the booster if you're eligible, & keep those masks handy! Maybe nexttime, I'll have some real bridge to write about.

## **East Bay By Marcia Wasserman (502)**

WE'RE BACK.

The East Bay Community Bridge Center is conducting live games. We are only one of a couple of centers that reopened and stayed open. I was surprised to talk to people outside our unit who were convinced that since their center was closed, all the centers were closed. EBCBC is taking every precaution imaginable. Everyone has to be vaccinated (we keep a record so you don't have to show your card every time). Everyone must be masked. No eating at the tables. The tables are spaced. The center is professionally cleaned after every game. The number of tables is gradually growing. On Wednesday, there were nine tables. On Friday, October 1st, we had 11 tables in the open game and 4.5 tables in the 299er game. If you don't feel ready to play in an open game, Fridays are perfect for you. If your center is closed and you don't enjoy playing online, come on over. As one player mentioned to me yesterday, it's a great opportunity to connect with new partners.

October is the perfect time to start playing in person. The club will be holding Club Championship games all month, starting on Monday October 4th.

If you prefer to stay online, there will be Club Appreciation games for 2X black points on Thursday October 14th and Sunday the 17th.

Go to the Unit 502 Website to get all the specifics as to which games are in person and which are online, both for the EBCBC and for Doug Handler's games.





We have had several new advancements in the past couple of months – Nancy Rutledge, our new Club Master, Cheryl Brodsky and Charlton Holland, new Sectional Masters, Allan McAllister and Tom Griswold new NABC Masters, Marina Kong our newest Junior Master, Eric Lindquist our newest Sectional Master, John McManis, a new Life Master, Herb Chung, a new Bronze Life Master, Roseanne Smith, a new Ruby Life Master, Loretta Dimitruck our newest Silver Life Master, Glenn Boyce our new Gold Life Masters, and Capt Norm Marks, our newest Sapphire Life Master.. Congratulations to all. If I have missed any (and I'm sure I have, please let me know so we can include you in our next writeup).

We look forward to seeing people without masks someday, but in the meantime for us ladies, it's an excuse to avoid lipstick. From a personal standpoint, I didn't partake in the online games because I love seeing people's smiling faces. Since you can't see their smile, you can see the twinkle in their eyes instead.

## Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello Everyone. The new clubhouse at 1616 W. Shaw is open, and it has been open for about 9 days as I write this article. At this point we are having Open games on Saturday afternoon, Monday afternoon, and the occasional Sunday. The 750 games are on Tuesday and Thursday, and the 99er game is on Saturday afternoon. We hope to open up other days and times at some future point. The clubhouse is requiring that all players be fully vaccinated for COVID.

We started at the new clubhouse on the weekend of September 25th and 26th when our furniture and supplies came out of storage and arrived at the new location. We had a wonderful set of volunteers who came in over the weekend to help set everything up. Among those in attendance (I apologize if I miss someone) were Ray



April, Marion Austin, Bob Cherry, Bob Endara, Gloria Fitzgerald, Lowell Gist, Ed Hampton, Jason McAlexander, Carol & Larry Miller, Belva Quattrin, Mark Smith, Judy Statler, Mark Stern, Lynn Storey, and Matthew Wilkins. Present directors, Laura Da Costa and Steve Johnson, and Unit President, Don Austin, have come in most every day

the week before the first game to get the room ready to go.

We had a 2-hour Open House on Saturday, October 2nd. A great day to see our friends and let them know where we are located. Though the building will still be called





the Fresno Bridge Center, we announced that day that we have named the clubhouse after Richard Meffley. Richard has been sorely missed as our most experienced player, director, club president, newsletter writer (for decades), teacher, partner, and friend. I find myself often wanting to reach out and ask Richard a question. It has been a strange thought to start up the new clubhouse without him.

We had our first game since March 14, 2020 (by the way, that game was won by Richard Meffley and Steve Johnson) on Sunday, October 3rd. We had 7



tables to open up the clubhouse, and we made it a Club Appreciation pairs game. It was great to have players at the table again. For some, it was the first time they played since the shutdown. For others, it was time to remember how to sort and hold their cards again. The winners

N/S were Barbara Thacker & Belva Quattrin, and E/W were Victor Greener & Naguib Abdallah (overall winners).

Our Saturday morning bridge lessons started on October 9th. Don Austin started teaching this series, and it was great to see 4 tables in attendance. We were having great success with these lessons before the shutdown, so it was nice to see that they seem to still be successful. We had returning faces to these lessons as well as many new people.

A big welcome to new member, Lori Sandersier of Fresno.

A couple changes of rank to report in this issue. Congratulations to:

- Mark Smith (Sectional Master, 50 mps)
- Patrick Carroll (Silver Life Master, 1000 mps)

Lastly, we lost some member to our Unit in the past few months: Al Crane of Oakhurst (August 2021), Kazue Iwatsubo of Fresno (July 2021), and Pearly McGinnis of Madera (September 2021).

Goodbye for now. Hope to see you at the clubhouse.





## Livermore Valley By Rosemarie LaFrancesca (501)



Hello Unit 501. At the moment, we are getting ready for our Sectional. It would be nice to know if we will have a full house or if everyone will stay home! As always, it will be held at Christensen Middle School Gymnasium. Art is doing his usual excellent job of coordinating all the sub committees. More on this to follow; but until then, save the weekend of February 5-6 from 10-6!

Many of our members have advanced in rank during this lock-down time, and I hope you are keeping track of them via the Bridge Bulletin or the ACBL Unit 501 Facebook page. Also, BBO has rankings and two of our pairs have scored big! Please congratulate Pat and Jim Leary for topping the list of September TCG points winners in the Open category across the entire ACBL. Also congratulate Mindy Kane and Wayne Vondera for placing 5th. I'm not sure what TCG is, but congratulations to all!

While looking for things to do during the pandemic, I've been catching a few Classic Movies. While watching the Marx brothers, there was a scene of a bridge game. Groucho jumped in a woman's lap, much to her dismay. He just said in his way, "Isn't this CONTACT bridge?"

Enjoy the cooler weather and the Fall colors...we get colorful trees in California too!

## Marin By Gail Haar (508)



A big virtual welcome to our new members and transfers into our Unit – Cynthia Adams, Jo Anne Murdock, Mary Weems and Kris Liu. Congratulations on their rank advancement to Michelle Slatalla (Club Master); Linda Fong (Regional Master); Cindy Morris (NABC Master); and Terry Kee, Martha England and Gerald Levine (Ruby Life Master). Apologies to anyone I may have missed, communication is hard and accurate communication even harder.

We've had so many ups and downs with COVID these last couple of months that it's enough to make a player dizzy. After getting our hopes up for F2F bridge, it turns out the transition is going to be a little rockier than expected. Some of Marin F2F games are surviving, barely, but others have been cancelled for lack of turnout. Now that booster shots are becoming more widely available maybe that will turn around, maybe not so soon. My crystal ball is pretty cloudy. There's lots of good information about scheduled classes and games at [marinbridge.com](http://marinbridge.com) and be sure to read the weekly Blast for any late breaking changes.





## Modesto By Ray Adams (529)

The Modesto Unit was proud to report that three of its members – Sharon Cole, Jim Page, and Lorraine Bocks – achieved new ACBL ranks in this period. Sharon became a Silver Life Master, Jim achieved the rank of Regional Master, and Lorraine actually reached two new rankings – Life Master and Bronze Life Master. In fact, Lorraine has won so many points this year that she is very near to reaching the level of Silver Life Master. Good job, Sharon, Jim, and Lorraine. You worked hard for your new rank and richly deserve it. Congratulations from all of us in Unit 529!

In related news, there will be a Club Appreciation Game on Saturday, October 23. This will also be a party to celebrate Lorraine's fine accomplishment.

On August 13, Sharon Cole and Pamela Mayne teamed up in the Virtual Vacation Rated Regional and finished first in B and C with a 57.29% game. This fine effort netted them 1.75 gold points as well as .47 red points. Congratulations, ladies!

Our virtual club had the highest games during this period. John and Pamela Mayne had a monster game of 80% on August 1, while Ralph Jungwirth and Trelle Uhl had a 73% effort on July 24, and another huge 72 percenter on September 12.

At the regular club, the pair of Frank Frohman/Sheela Wani dominated with a nice game of 68% on the twenty-first of September, later following with a 65.67% effort on the twenty-third of the same month, while Sharon Cole/Garrad Marsh tied with Ralph Jungwirth/Trelle Uhl for third with 65.28% games, Sharon and Garrad's coming in July, and Ralph and Trelle's in August.

High pointers for this three month period were: A, Ralph Jungwirth with 27.59, second, Sheela Wani at 20.01, and third, Trelle Uhl with 18.36. In B, Pam Mayne led with 26.56, making her second overall in the 529 Unit, while Sharon Cole was second in B with 16.72, and Libby Longstreth came in third at 12.88. In C, Garrad Marsh led with 12.07, Jim Page was second at 2.50, while Sherrie Barakatt was third at 2.07. Congratulations to all of you on a good job of playing matchpoints.

Partners Sharon Cole and Garrad Marsh had a remarkable achievement on the sixteenth of September. They finished first in C, first in B, and tied for first in A. Good going, you two!

Before the covid-19 pandemic, our club had a game limited to players with fewer than 1,000 masterpoints on three Sundays a month. This game was run by Ray Adams and later by Barbara Page, and featured a short bridge lesson before the game. I am happy to announce that this limited game has started again through the efforts of Lee Maddocks and Ray Adams. In the inaugural game on This game was won by Garrad Marsh and Lorraine Bocks, with Jim and Marcia Laird finishing first in B. Se

In the first game, Lee and Ray kibitzed and answered any questions the players





had about the boards they played. If the regulars want it, Ray will give short lessons about various aspects of bridge about 20 minutes before the start of the game at noon. There will be no competition with any future Modesto Unit games, and there will be no game on the third Sunday of the month so as not to conflict with the Stockton Unit game.

Unit 529 looks forward to a successful ending quarter to 2021, the year when face-to-face bridge once again became a reality in Modesto.

## **Monterey By Mary Block (530)**

The Bridge Center continues to operate on a somewhat limited basis with reduced player participation. Lyde's NLM games on Wednesday and Friday continue, although her Tuesday game has been discontinued for the time being. Doug's Tuesday afternoon open game and Maja's Thursday afternoon open game continue. Hetty's beginner game on Monday morning continues to offer instruction in a safe, learning environment.

For all games at the Bridge Center, proof of vaccination is required; masks are optional. Hand sanitizer is provided at every table.

Additional face-to-face games take place Monday mornings at St. John's Chapel in Monterey and Friday afternoons at St. Paul's Church in Salinas. Virtual BBO games are offered Sunday afternoon, Monday morning, Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning, and Saturday morning.

As always, be sure to check our Unit website at [bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530](http://bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530). Joe Truskot is doing a wonderful job of maintaining and expanding this site to keep our members up to date. A new feature of the website is a partnership registry to assist members who do not have a regular partner or whose regular partner is unavailable. Contact Mano Singham at [mano.singham@case.edu](mailto:mano.singham@case.edu) to be included in the registry.

In addition to being our webmaster, Joe also sends out e-mails of interest to our membership. Some of you may have your spam filters set so that e-mails to a mailing list go into your junk folder, so make sure that [members@bridgewebsemail.com](mailto:members@bridgewebsemail.com) is in your on-line address book.

Speaking of spam filters, some of you have been troubled by the kind of junk mail that is designed to take advantage of you. For example, some people have been receiving messages purportedly from Comcast telling you that you need to update your settings because a new e-mail program is starting. If you do fall for this, your address book has been hijacked and your friends will receive weird messages. And it may take you days to undo the damage. Another scam is a message supposedly from Amazon (for example) confirming an order you know you haven't placed. I have had this happen a couple of times. Most recently, I generously ordered an 80-inch flat screen TV to be delivered to someone in MA I have never heard of. Again, the plot is to obtain





information that can be used to your disadvantage. If you are suspicious about a message, click on the sender and it will reveal that it is not from Comcast or Amazon. Another clue is that the message has weird spelling and punctuation. Best protection is to check your bank and credit card accounts on a daily basis.

The following changes have been reported to our membership in the last three months:

Transfers In: Patricia Johnston, Nina Leitman (both from Denver), Paula Cole (Santa Cruz). Changes in rank:

Junior Master: Connie Ventimiglia

Club Masters: Peter Steffen, Lynn Bohnen, Don Fennell, Patricia Maddox

Sectional Master: Marie Louie

Regional Master: Ed Schrenzel, Mano Singham, Rita Sturgeon

NABC Master: Sharon Chibidakis, Karen Mok

Advanced NABC Master: Andi Carr

Life Master: Leonard Chriss (also Silver LM)

Bronze Life Master: Charlene Reimnitz

Ruby Life Master: Candace Garvey

Gold Life Master: James Rice

Diamond Life Master: Andy Goodman

s of the time this issue is being published, our first Unit Game in the new facility is planned for Sunday, October 31. Snacks and a social hour will be at 12:30 and the game at 1:00. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Watch your mailbox for further information.

We are [www.montereybridgeclub.com](http://www.montereybridgeclub.com) The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am [maru0407@comcast.net](mailto:maru0407@comcast.net). The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

## **Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512)**

What's new with 512?

After more than 10 years of writing this column the incredible Tom Sheahan handed off his pen and asked that someone else convey the news of Unit 512. He's a really tough act to follow; were we in a room with our members I know we would all





rise and give him the standing ovation he deserves. When you see Tom next please thank him personally. If I wore a hat, I would definitely tip it in his director and bow deeply! And by the way, Tom has achieved a real milestone in his bridge endeavors having passed 1000 masterpoints recently so in addition to thanking him for his service to Unit 512, we also congratulate him on his significant achievement with bridge.

So, what are we up to? We no longer have games online, it's all live bridge at Rio Vista Bridge Club (610 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista, on Thursdays at 11:00), Napa Valley Bridge Club (Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St, Napa) at 12:45 or Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club (Vintage Senior Center, Sonoma) at 12:00 on Wednesdays and Friday for Open Games, Tuesdays at 12:30 for 499ers. Nothing wrong with a little advertising! Vaccinations are required in Sonoma, each site has slightly different rules dictated by the location.

Napa Valley Bridge Club has nothing but "extra points" games scheduled for the rest of the year, as does Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club...so come and play a little live bridge with us! Just have a mask on hand because we follow local regulations. Everyone is welcome.

Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club will be moving to the Moose Lodge in December. For reasons still known only to the management of Vintage House in Sonoma the club was not afforded the opportunity to renew it's contract there. It's a new venue and will be just fine, bridge players just want to play bridge! VDBC has arranged a pot luck to entice players back to the table on October 20th just following the game. If you are interested, come to the game on the 20th and be sure to bring something to contribute to the pot luck later. Everyone is welcome (especially if they bring along an adult beverage).

As for rank advancements: Our newest Club Master is Laurence Pollard; Jody Bugg and Sylvia Landt advanced to Regional LM; Robert Watson is now a Silver LM and Sheila Malinowski is our newest Ruby LM. Congratulations to all!

The Ace of Clubs and Mini McKinney races are going into the final quarter and I will announce winners at the end of the year. Here's how it stands at the moment:

- 0-5 mps: Robert Bruce followed by Carole Kupsoff
- 20-50 msp: John Coulson with Jean Behse snapping at his heels
- 50-100 mps: Jody Bugg followed closely by Sylvia Landt
- 100-200 mps: Cynthia Crawford, Janice Vad second
- 200-300 mps: Helen Bohl with a healthy lead over Lana Stanley
- 300-500 mps: Claudia Sims over Gwen Davey





500-1000 mps: Carol Fraser, Richard Davis second

1000-1500 mps: Lilyan Frank with Carol Clements following

1500-2500 mps: Dan Harp first, Kathleen Smith in hot pursuit

2500-3500 mps: Clyde Smith with a strong lead over Anita Pensler

3500-5000 mps: Joanne Westen...alone!

5000-7500 mps: Tom Jacobson ahead of Neil Stern

Good for all of you! Three months to go and the winners could easily change, go for the masterpoints!

This has been a rough year for our Unit, not unlike what all the other units are experiencing, but we are gradually rebuilding our foundations and will surely be stronger once we overcome this darned pandemic! Our games are live...come and join us!

## Palo Alto By Judi Gentry (503)



Hi Bridge Friends:

“There will be face-to-face bridge in Palo Alto Bridge Clubs in July!” That was the statement that introduced my last Diamond in the Ruff column at end of June (if you haven’t noticed: we have gone to a quarterly publication for now.) The Board of Directors and our Club Owners went to incredible lengths to make our facility a welcoming and safe environment for members. We have new carpet, newly painted walls and an improved air filtration system. There is no food or beverage served and those who want a beverage can bring their own thermos or mug. The unit requires that all people entering the building be vaccinated (and show proof of such on their first visit) and be masked. Tables are spaced appropriately. It seems the club is ready for us; why aren’t we filling the room? So far the numbers have been surprisingly small. I can’t speak for all of you, but I truly love and appreciate Unit 503, our leaders and our members. However, in the interest of full disclosure, I have not played face-to-face bridge to date. I had planned to do so a couple of weeks ago, but I ended up with a doctor’s appointment that conflicted with the time of the game. Too bad! It was my intent to write about what a wonderful experience it was!

So, while knowing and firmly believing that playing at the club is safe, why am I not going there? Why are you not choosing to play at the club yet? Hopefully, like me, you are playing in PABC games on line in order to support our club and our directors until you’re ready to play bridge face-to-face. Do you share some of my reasons? 1. I have gotten complacent and lazy playing bridge on-line! 2. I don’t have to drive





anywhere. 3. It takes much less of my time. 4. I don't have to pay the same attention to my apparel and appearance as I would if I were being seen by others. 5. I do have chronic back issues and I appreciate playing at home and not having to sit at a table for hours. 6. The game times don't always work for me. All that said, I miss the smiling faces around the table. We are a community! Its time to bring back into our lives some of the things we enjoyed. Hope to see you at the club soon.

In the meantime, there continues to be ways to benefit from your membership in (or close affiliation with) Unit 503.

On Tuesday, October 19 at 9:00, we will have our 2nd Zoom Annual Membership meeting. The agenda includes an update on the bridge center, discussion about board elections and an opportunity for you to ask questions or offer your thoughts. I hope you'll be there.

And immediately following that meeting there will be a lecture by the ever-popular, ever-entertaining bridge instructor: Frank Smoot. His topic will be "Bidding after a Raise." Do you face these questions: Is this bid forcing or invitational? How do I further describe my hand to my partner? How do I show possible slam interest? I know we'll get answers to those questions and many others from Frank.

Did you know that you can access all past lectures on the unit website? Go to Education/Lecture Series and click the link for "All our past lectures." By the way, the final lecture for this year will be on Tuesday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. Alex Martelli will discuss the topic: Simple Squeezes. Don't miss it. Our coordinators: Eli Wismer and Gerry Gassman have done a wonderful job of selecting excellent presenters and a variety of relevant topics for us. Unfortunately, they will both be retiring from their positions at the end of this year. So, if you value the lectures we have had and want these events to continue, please consider volunteering to help coordinate the program next year. As a volunteer organization, there is an opportunity for everyone to help.

Finally, I want to wish a happy 100th birthday to Michael Chin. I have played against Michael for many years, but didn't realize that it wasn't until his wife of 50 years passed away in 2001 that he started to learn bridge. To keep himself busy when visiting his daughters in the PA area, he played at Little House in MP and Avenidas in PA. He joined ACBL in 2010 and started playing at Unity Church and at the PA Bridge Club. He continues to read bridge books and likes to learn new things. In addition to playing online in PABC games with fellow club members, he plays once a week with his daughter remotely (she now lives in Vienna.) Michael is a charming gentleman, a clever opponent and a gentle presence at the bridge table. He is an inspiration and an example of what bridge can do to keep your brain working well and keep you engaged with people and experience a sense of community.

Whether you play face-to-face or online, enjoy the game and be kind to your partners and opponents. I look forward to seeing you soon. Judi





## Reno By Jill Wallace & Sandy Haslem (473)



Barbara Seagram and Jill Wallace

Reno's Unit 473 Board was delighted to host a "Barbara Seagram Day" at the Mathewson Bridge Center on October 4, 2021. Barbara is one of the most influential people in the Bridge World. She has co-authored dozens of books, most notably "25 Conventions You should Know", the best-selling Bridge title in the last 50 years. One of her most recent books, "Barbara's Bridge Tips" is a resounding hit as well.

About 110 members and visitors attended the fund-raising event that included



Barbara's lesson on defensive strategy, a social gathering for lunch, and sanctioned 149er and Open bridge games in the afternoon. Barbara's seminar was a big draw for the duplicate bridge games with a total of 28 tables. It was exciting to have the Mathewson Bridge Center filled with enthusiastic bridge players.

Proceeds from the event were donated to the "Banyan Tree Organization." This Non-Governmental Organization (NGO),

created and supported by Barbara Seagram and many others, has built 4 schools for over 500 children in Cambodia. The NGO provides annually for Cambodian teachers, supplies, building maintenance, sewing, and weaving centers and much more. The group also promotes and supports the importance of hygiene for the Cambodian students and villagers by providing financing, education, and installation of hygienic equipment such as toilets and water filtration devices. To learn more about this worthy cause, visit [www.banyantreeorganization.com](http://www.banyantreeorganization.com).

Barbara's lesson on defense was much appreciated! Not only is she an excellent teacher and is meticulously organized, but she also engages the participants with her relaxed style and storytelling. Many of the participants brought along their Barbara Seagram books for a personalized autograph. She and her husband Alex enjoyed being at the Bridge Center for the event and we hope they visit the Reno-Tahoe area again in the future.

You can learn about Barbara's Bridge lessons, books and more at [www.barbaraseagram.com](http://www.barbaraseagram.com).





## San Francisco By Kimberly Fanady (506)

As summer turns to autumn, in-person bridge is slowly but steadily returning to the San Francisco clubs. QuickTricks reopened on July 12 and has soldiered on through the delta surge and the mask mandate, with about 12 or so tables of loyal members showing up every week. Cardology played a few in-person games in September but had to close again for low attendance; hopefully the club can resume live games soon. Unit 506 will hold its first monthly unit game in 19 months on October 23. The March 2020 unit game was my penultimate in-person game before the lockdown — wow, does that feel like a loooong time ago. Chinese American and Sunset Club look forward to reopening on November 1 and 10, respectively. No word yet on PIPS and the Bridge Center; we'll keep waiting and hoping. All of the clubs continue to hold online games on BBO. Check the unit website at [unit506.org](http://unit506.org) for schedules and details.

The return of live games shows that without a doubt, there's more to bridge than just playing the cards. At QuickTricks, people have cheerfully handed over their vaxx cards, patiently worn their masks, and dutifully taken their coffee and cookies outdoors week after week — to enjoy our favorite game among friends. While BBO has many advantages, as one player remarked, "there's nothing like live bridge!"

Looking ahead, Unit 506 elected not to hold a North American Pairs unit qualifying game, so all San Franciscans who qualified at a club game can head straight to the online District 21 final on November 12-14. The top pairs in each strat will represent the District at the national finals at the Reno Spring NABC. That could be you!

Congrats to our most recent rank advancers: new Junior Masters Emlen Ehrlich, Catherine Fogelman; Sectional Master Mark Reed; Regional Master Doug Hannah, NABC Masters Leila Marcus, Eve Thompson, Ruby Life Master Chester Chwang, and Gold Life Master Jane McLaughlin. I'm sure lots more people have climbed the ranks since my last column — you know who you are! Welcome to our newest member, Sue Rushakoff, and transfers Richard Robertson (Sacramento), Anita Mahtani (India), Joan Lurie (Shreveport) and Barbara Johnston (Phoenix).

That's about all for now. Let's hope the situation continues to improve, and my next column will feature the return of holiday bridge parties! Stay well, stay safe, and keep playing bridge, Unit 506ers!





## San Mateo By John Selin (498)

We welcome new and reinstated Unit members:

- |                   |            |                  |              |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Alison Hawayeki | Burlingame | • Elliot Simon   | Redwood City |
| • Donald Fox      | Woodside   | • Mark Rosenthal | Burlingame   |
| • Ross Millikan   | San Mateo  | • Edward Lechner | San Mateo    |
| • Tom Holdiman    | Menlo Park | • Roman Weil Jr. | Menlo Park   |

Congratulations to our new Master Achievements:

### Junior Masters

- Marritje Greene
- Laurie Benson
- Janice Diamond
- Alfred W. Fricke

### Club Masters

- Lee Bowman
- Mili Delbecq
- Becky Glikbarg
- Kristine J. Birge

### Sectional Masters

- Ema Bowman
- Janice Carter
- Mary S. Smith

### Sectional Masters

- Myrl Dunker
- Kai Eckert

### Regional Masters

- John Shipley

### NABC Masters

- Virginia Dare
- Bob Farkas

### Life Masters

- Suzanne Vuko
- Barbara Lewis
- Gloria Halliday

### Life Masters

- Katherine Wong

### Bronze Life Masters

- Patricia Frederick

### Silver Life Masters

- Nancy Finney

### Ruby Life Master

- Jay Bates
- Philip Kuhn

The Coastside Women's Club, San Mateo Bridge Center, and Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club have resumed bridge in person. The Bayshore Bridge Club and CABC, which shared a facility, do not have plans to resume in-person bridge. Raad Bunni and





JennyKuhn have separate contracts with the Villa; Raad's contract includes provisions for our unit games on Saturdays and mentor games on Thursday evenings. The start has been slow so far, consistent with statistics from the ACBL about what is happening nationally. The Villa has proved itself a good venue to play bridge. Compared to our previous site, it is quieter, the temperature is comfortable, and the lighting is excellent.

To try to increase in person attendance, Raad Bunni is doing a survey of Unit 498 members to see what times are most amenable to players. Jennifer Kuhn and several BOD members will be doing some brainstorming sessions to come up with ideas to increase participation.

We reluctantly decided to cancel the NLM Sectional we had scheduled for the first weekend in October. This type of event requires some longer-term planning and commitments that could conflict with rapid developments in the COVID situation. Our next planned Sectional will be at Cañada College in February 2022.

Final tallies are in for the Longest Day Campaign to raise money for the Alzheimer's Foundation. Unit 498 contributed \$17,430, which was the 9th highest total among units in the nation. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and to Janelle, Fred, members of the committee who organized the event, and those who donated their time to play bridge with donors.

Our unit-sponsored game on July 31 was a six-table 499er event in which three pairs finished above 60%. Becca Simmons and Kai Eckert took top honors with 63.3%, followed by Barbara Lewis and Judy Olson at 61.8%, and Lucy Ballard and James Bolton at 61.1%. Thanks to Raad Bunni for directing.

The July mentor-mentee games drew a total of 12 tables. The top finishers in Section 1 were Jeffrey Schubiner - Jennifer Stern (66.1%), followed by Kent Taylor - Hugh Huff (58.3%). In Section 2, Anna Brown - Arline Van Ness (61.7%) finished first, ahead of Chelsea Verhasselt - Deuce Clubs (60.6%). Thanks to Art Quey for directing.

Top finishers in our August mentor-mentee game were: in Section 1, Melanie Mauldin & Robert Ipswitch at 58.3%, followed by Jeffrey Schuriner & Jennifer Stern at 56.3% and in Section 2, Marilynne Bachli & Fred Chasalow at 68.3%, with Lauren Rosen & Janice Nakao in second at 63.9%. Thanks to Art Quey for directing.

## **Santa Cruz By Karen Schamberg (550)**



Santa Cruz County lifted the indoor mask mandate on September 29 so masks are now optional while in the Santa Cruz Bridge Center. All players must provide proof of vaccination. No food or snacks will be provided, however, coffee, water and a limited assortment of soft drinks are available and may be consumed at the bridge tables. For games beginning at 10, there is a short lunch break around noon.





Face-to-Face (F2F) games are Mondays & Wednesdays at noon, and Tuesdays & Fridays at 10. There are also numerous BBO games. Consult the Game Calendar on our website; [www.santacruzbridge.org](http://www.santacruzbridge.org)

Several classes are either ongoing or about to begin. To find out about these classes you can contact the individual instructor via our website. Go to "Learn Bridge" then to "Classes" and click on the instructor. Nancy Wainer will be offering a new Beginner Class starting in January. Contact her at [nlmbridge@yahoo.com](mailto:nlmbridge@yahoo.com)

Now for kudos and congratulations and a lot of statistics: Pairs who achieved scores 70% or higher in club games, both F2F and on BBO were: Kathy Beiers & Lester Loops, 70%; Robert Johnson & Lester Loops, 70%; Teresa Loftus & Larry Bazinett, 70.83%; Sheri Norbosh & Irma Andrews, 71.25%; Janet Loops & Tom Burke, 72.22%; Laura McCabe & Jonni Faircrest, 72.5%; John Walker & Jonni Faircrest, 72.5% and 75.69%; and last, but certainly not least, Ken Gamble & an unknown partner, 79.63%. Now, those are some amazing percentages!

Finishing in the top 16% of players in the Endless Summer online tournament was Angie Millslagle (694 out of 4144 players).

Congratulations to the following members who have achieved Master Milestones since June: Deborah Hencke, Junior Master; Jason Prochaska, Sectional Master; and Shirley Llacera, Bronze Life Master. Well done.

Welcome to new members Emma Arulanantham and Alec Phillips. On a sad note, our condolences go out to the families of Diane Wagener and Will Forest who both passed this year.

As a reminder, now that it has reopened, the SCBC is still a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. To see the Unit 550 schedule and calendar, please visit our website at [www.santacruzbridge.org](http://www.santacruzbridge.org) also, be sure to take a moment to visit our Facebook page.

## **Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)**



Has the same thing happened in other units as in ours? We almost made it, almost had all 3 of our clubs open. We started to get ready for our Fall Sectional, and then cancelled it. The next event we look forward to is our annual Holiday Party (which is the best holiday party I've ever known), but, yes, it has been cancelled. Oh my, oh my.

Anyway, 2 of our 3 clubs in Unit 509 have opened for face-to-face play. Our Oakmont club (which is by invitation only) was the first to open on June 25. All players are completely vaccinated. Covid numbers were low, so the first 2 or 3 weeks we didn't wear masks. It felt normal. What a treat to be in a room with lots of people and no masks! Then people got silly, and covid numbers went up. Now we wear





masks. Even so, we have a good time. Our Petaluma Bridge Club opened July 15. Everyone wears masks and is vaccinated. The table count has been low since we players in Santa Rosa and Petaluma are quite careful about our health. The Petaluma Bridge Club plans to close for the holidays from November 11 through January 13, so call ahead if you plan to attend. Our 3rd club, the Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa, cancelled their opening just 2 days before it planned to reopen. Kathy Venton opted to be on the safe side, but she still runs 6 virtual games a week. Kathy's watching the new covid case statistics to decide when to reopen. So, keep safe and keep others safe as well, and eventually we'll all be playing at bridge clubs again.



We're still looking forward to our Spring 2022 Sectional on March 5 and 6 at the Petaluma Community Center. We'll have lots of room, lots of parking, and lots of ducks on the lake. We'll let everyone know the de-tails as the time draws near.

Here are the 70+% Virtual BBO games at Kathy Venton's bridge games at the Gallery: on August 9, Dave Pankratz and Tony Jackson scored 71.25%; on August 10, Pankajam and Ramani Sundaresan scored 71.60%; on August 16, Mark Hersko and Cecelia Zachar scored 71.43%; on August 18, Herschel Cozine and David Anderson scored 70.14%, and on September 15, Elaine Kitano and Linda Buckin scored 70.56%.

In Oakmont: on July 23, Dixie Modisette and Joan McDonnell racked up 75.00%; on August 24, Fikry Galal and Robert Keays scored 73.81%; on August 27, Laurie Vree and Judy Duport scored 72.19%; and on Sep-tember 17, Hugh Kellogg and Lynn Blumenthal turned in 70.24%.

In Petaluma, Gene Simpson and Laura Kenney scored 71.52% on July 29.

Mark Hersko and Jackie Ortiz scored 72.36% at a PIPS virtual club game in San Francisco on September 30.

I ask our BBO players to let me know when they get a big score. Our unit member who takes 1st most often is Panette Talia. She won in a 163 table game on July 14 with 70.24%. She then brought in a big 76.30% with partner Ash ElSadi in a field of 502 pairs on September 23. A week later on the 30th, Panette played again with Ash, scoring 70.49% for 2nd place in a field of 484. On August 25, John Shribbs scored 71.14% for 10th place in a field of 634.

Here are our players who have flown up in rank since July: Richard B Addison and Sharon Jansen are now Junior Masters; Jane Bender and Dr. Kim Morris, Regional Masters; Jim Duport and Kim Fusch, NABC Masters; Patty Shribbs, a Silver  Life Master; and Nancy Gunn, Diamond  Life Master.





## CONGRATULATIONS!

An interesting story — Nancy Gunn was celebrating her 71st birthday. A great party was planned, but no special bridge plans. Then, she wrote me: the ACBL told me I finally made Diamond Life Master (5000). Then I decided to find a place to play bridge and found out Sacramento was holding their sectional, and that they had not cancelled it. I played all three days with three different partners and came in 1,1, and 2. Friday was the team game and Sara Rothmuller asked me to fill in at the last minute on a team with Sigrid Price and Evelyn Holtz when both of her other partners got cold feet worrying about the virus -- we won. The next day I got Bob Klein to come over, and we were first overall in the two session pairs. I traded him in for Sarita Matheson (Albany) for the Sun-day Two Session Pairs game, and we made second overall. A good week at bridge." Happy Birthday, Nancy.

## Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



I'm writing in the first week of October 2021 and indoor masks are still mandated in Santa Clara County, although there was a recent announcement by a consortium of local county health officers of three criteria that, if met, will result in lifting the mask mandate. This COVID news is relevant to a column about Unit 507 because a mask mandate is a concern about reopening the San Jose Bridge Center. At least it is a concern of the reopening committee, Lynn Yokel, Jack Verson, Norman Marks, and me. The committee has been discussing what arrangements and circumstances would have to exist for the Unit to enter a lease for a new bridge center. We have made a good deal of progress on proposals to be presented to the directors and the full Unit Board. We are aware that the Palo Alto Bridge Center has been holding face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) games since mid-July despite the delta variant surge.

If you want to play bridge with masks, the Unit is holding its fall sectional on October 23 and 24 in a new location, a church in Campbell. We don't know what kind of turnout to expect, but it is a small hall, so we encourage players to show up early and submit your proof of vaccination by email to [Unit507Vaxx@yahoo.com](mailto:Unit507Vaxx@yahoo.com).

Our unit members have been finding places to play, no doubt some online, because they continue to advance through the ranks. Congratulations to our last three months' worth of new Masters: Ellie Martindale, Ruth Mohanram, Carol Schmiedt, Jason Scott (Club); Jerry Arden, Dianne Clark (Sectional); Surendra Mandava, Thomas Morse (NABC); Xiaoyu Cheng (Bronze); Terry Ahern, Vera Huelbig, John Wachsman (Silver); Colin Hemsley (Ruby); Jeffrey Rogers (Gold); Kevin Rosenberg, Jack Verson (Sapphire), James Howe (Diamond).

In the latest online Virtual Vacation Regional, H Paul Davis placed first in mid-flight pairs event. Gerald Hewitt & Anne Wilson placed second in another mid-flight pairs event.





The Unit Board is trying to stay in touch with unit members through monthly reports from President Mich Ravera and [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org) is keeping up with the changes in the online game schedule. The search for a new site for a bridge club is ongoing, so let someone on the reopening committee know if you are aware of a possible location.

Odds are against the Unit holding a face-to-face holiday party this upcoming holiday season, but if the situation changes, we'll publicize it via email and the website.

## Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



Happy Halloween! And it is ACBL Member Appreciation Month! As of October all the Unit's physical clubs are holding face to face games again. On display at the Stockton Club is a beautiful Halloween quilt made by Maryanne Sievers. Thank you, Joyce Cates, for sharing your lovely quilt of summer flowers from June through September. Joyce is staying safe at home as she has started a new treatment for her CLL. She would love to play bridge online so give her a call to set up a game on BBO.

Unit 510 has a new website that includes news from the Mountain clubs as well as Stockton and Oak Park Bridge clubs. Sue Kroning is the Webmaster and her stated goal is to maintain a site that will share information about all the Clubs in this Unit and help us feel more connected between the valley and mountains. Sue and her husband Robert moved to Angels Camp from Oregon in the past year and she accepted the challenge of creating a new website for all of us. The address is <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit510/> Check it out and add to Favorites as it also has a section to check results of all the Club games in our Unit. The site also lists the dates of special Club Appreciation games which pay extra big masterpoints.

The Stockton Club has continued its Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Open and two Thursday NLM games at 11:30 a.m. as there was no clear majority desiring to change to a later time. The Sunday game was reduced to just once a month as a Unit game with potluck lunch on the 3rd Sunday of each month at noon. The other Sunday games had low attendance (twice only 2 tables) so were discontinued after July. The Oak Park Bridge Club game has continued each Wednesday at 11 a.m. with good attendance of 6-11 tables. Korey returned to Directing duties on October 6. Thank you Ken for filling in when needed. The Mother Lode Club in Angels Camp reopened this month on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays each month and the Gold Country Club in San Andreas will hold face to face games on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays. The Highway 49ers Virtual Club holds games on BBO at 1:00 on the Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the Mountain Clubs are closed. Explore the website for more information on all the clubs.

Since the last issue there have been many rank advancements to announce! Harriet Corren reached Junior Master and Carol Roth and Lew Thorne became Club Masters. Marcia Laird, a longtime player in the NLM game, won the needed gold points





online to reach NABC Master. She has all the other colors and total points but just needs a few more gold to reach her goal of Life Master. Also earning her NABC Master over the summer was Margaret Stovall. One of our Unit's newest members is Mary Wells who played in the Angels Camp, San Andreas, and Stockton clubs in late June winning her final few black points to reach 500 points and Life Master. Joining the ranks of Silver Life Members were Darlene Barnes and Jack Fitzgerald. These last 3 were highlighted on the Unit 510 website. Bonnie Landis, who plays in the Mountain Clubs, recently became a Ruby Life Master. Congratulations to all these players for their achievements!

Many of us were disappointed that the Reno Regional was cancelled this month. So far the Monterey Clambake Regional is still on the Calendar to begin January 3. To "get in shape" be sure to practice all the little things we have forgotten to do at the club level after playing online: announce the opening one notrump range of your partner even if it is the usual 15-17. Alert all conventional or artificial bids (as required by being written in red on the convention card) by tapping the blue "alert" card in the center of the table and only explain if asked. And practice naming the suit requested (such as "spades") when playing transfers after a notrump opening.

I will close with the sad news that Joy Gotelli's husband died early this month after a long illness. I also want to acknowledge and thank those who willingly accommodate fellow players with vision and hearing difficulty by arranging cards for the next player who will play that board in the same seat and by ensuring that opponents are aware of a verbal alert if the blue card is not being tapped.

