



# District 21 Unitscope

games are declared the winners.

Juanita Kaufman and Mary Zak have undergone surgery this month, and we wish them a speedy recuperation. Gaylen Neptune, who splits residences between Modesto and Alaska, is back in town for the winter.

Each year our unit donates to needy families at Christmas time. This year we contributed \$1,000 divided among four families.

Several local players traveled to San Diego to play in the Fall NABC tournament. They are Hal & Donna De Roos, Jeanne Russo, and Gail Vick. The Monterey Clambake Regional is coming up January 4-10. If any of you are planning to play in this event, please let me know if you win any section firsts.

The next unit game is taking place on January 10 at 12:30 p.m.

Happy New Year!

## Monterey

By Maja

Following are a couple of bon mots from one of our most illustrious and colorful players (and a formidable opponent!): "A specialist knows more and more about less and less until s/he knows everything about nothing." "Those of you who think you know it all are annoying to those of us who do." And finally, "If you're not playing reverse bids, you're not playing bridge."

For all who are interested in a great New Year's Eve bridge party, sign up at the Bridge Center for this year's "early to Bed" party. Starting at 4:30 and ending by 9:30, the evening will include a social hour, bridge, dinner, and more bridge! Reservations are requested.

Jill and Lyde will continue to offer Easy-bridge! workshops on Thursday evenings January through March beginning January 14. For reservations call Jill at 625-4421.

It's time to get your partnerships lined up for the Monterey Clambake; yes it's that time of the year again.

Now for some recent results: Tues. p.m. Club champ, Lauren Upson & Jill Leach; Tues. eve Annual Membership, Wally Thorpe & Maja; Tues. p.m. club champ, Ron Loiocano & Leonard Chriss; Wed. a.m. club champ, Gale Weir & Maury Weir; Wed. p.m. club champ, Marianne Van Gelder & Ron Coffee; Friday a.m. Club champ, Roberta Emmerson & Ruby Heinrichs; Friday p.m. club champ, Walter Thorpe & John Akers; Saturday a.m., Joe Leavitt & Norm Clark.

## Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Joe Freeman

Last month, I forgot to note that Gay Metz is now a Bronze Life Master. Looking at some of the unit Mini-McKenney races regarding future Life Masters, three of our members have already (as of the end of October) amassed over 100 points this year. These are William Barron, Wayne Miller, and John Rothschild.

All too often we recognize achievements and failed to mention service. In fact, the key reason that our games work so well is our volunteers who are too often taken for granted. For example, Keith Vincent and Sheila Malinowski have handled the food for the Sunday games month after month, year after year.

Recently both were unable to perform this role; they were sorely missed, and we realized how much they do for the unit.

Sometimes it seems that the food is as important as the bridge. Unfortunately, we don't have caterers to prepare and serve or maids to clean up afterward. Volunteers do this, and usually it's the same people all the time. In Sonoma, Renate Bialy probably holds the record for doing the most work for the longest time. However, Tom Sheahan and Dolores Jaquez may be catching up fast. Most folks know to help put away the tables, boards and bid boxes, but too many think the "maid" will pick up their food related trash. We hope that everyone would pitch in and we will be asking for more help in the kitchen as well.

Our sanction for the 2010 sectional has been approved: July 10 & 11 at the Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma. This will be our third consecutive year to put on a sec-

tional after several years of not having one. One of our major goals has been, and will be, to get more participation from our own 299ers and others throughout District 21. We had 95 total tables in 2008 and 135 tables in 2009. Our 299er morning pairs section and our 299er Sunday Swiss exceeded our aspirations such that we had to do some serious rearranging of tables. Thanks to the marvelous catering skills of Eileen Holsten, and the wonderful volunteers she recruited, our sectional features great food. Although his name is not on the "credits," Wayne Gordon's behind the scene efforts are a major reason for our success. Unit 512 is truly blessed to have his many and varied contributions.

Keep checking our unit web site [www.acblunit512.com](http://www.acblunit512.com) for news about the unit.

## Palo Alto

By Marian Kelly

The Palo Alto Unit's big Holiday Party is planned this year for Sunday, December 20. Every year the unit gives each member a Christmas gift in the form of a grand dinner catered by a popular local restaurant coupled with a free game, a pairs game this year. The only request is that everyone brings an unwrapped new toy as a donation to we ask each player to bring an unwrapped toy which, this year, will be donated to the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital Oncology Unit. Each year the photos taken of the table overflowing with toys amazes those who were unable to attend. Additionally, it is at this special event that the annual Sportsmanship and Service awards are announced. Sign up deadline for this very popular event was December 13.

Unit members are already hard at work on plans for our annual Firecracker Sectional, to be held from Thursday, July 1 through Monday, July 6, 2010 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Steve Barasch, the 2010 tournament chair, has a big challenge on his hands. He would love to best the statistics from the 2009 Firecracker, which was chaired by Steve Lubeck. Steve L. and a great many wonderful volunteers and staff managed to increase the number of tables from the prior year by 15%, to 1050 tables in play. And the number of players increased 10%, to 1144. These numbers surprised and delighted everyone, since there was concern that the slowing economy might well affect attendance negatively. And so, Mr. Barasch, the unit wishes you Happy Holidays and great success in the coming year!

Hurrah, hurrah! to Sherie Greenberg who has now earned 7500 masterpoints and has become an Emerald Life Master. Way to go, Sherie!!

For many reasons, Palo Alto is encouraging players to carpool. Here are just three: because ride sharing is the environmentally right thing to do; because we save gas; because we find lovely people to talk about bridge as we travel. Carpool information is posted on a bulletin board near the front door and there is a form on the unit's web site, [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com). By putting his/her name and information into this form, a player agrees to be part of a database (password protected and available only to unit members and other Palo Alto players) which will help unit members more easily carpool to games in the unit with other players.

## Reno

By Kathy Evans

Happy New Year!

Hope you all had time for visiting with family and friends and some bridge at the year end Reno Winter Regional.

The top four masterpoint winners at the Tahoe/Carson Fall Sectional were: Lin Goldstein with 29.28; Loretta Bromberg (Tiburon, Calif.) with 27.41; Carlos D'Assumpcao (San Francisco) with 25.27; and Charlotte Falk with 21.59.

Congratulations to Lin & Charlotte.

The November unit game was another exciting round of bridge. Sitting almost 12 match points behind the leaders, Gregg Foss & Jeannene Lavitre and six points behind Donna McLeod & Virginia Kellermyer, the pair of Lin Goldstein & Sheila

Wimer had a monstrous final round scoring 23 out of 24 possible match points to finish ahead of both pairs. Wimer & Goldstein finished a mere two matchpoints ahead of Foss & Lavitre. The final results: Lin Goldstein & Sheila Wimer were 1st; Gregg Foss & Jeannene Lavitre were 2nd; Donna McLeod & Virginia Kellermyer were 3rd; Nancy Blackwell & Gloria Walker were 4th, Tom Howell & Paul Blumberg were 5th and the pairs of Benjamin McLeod & Paul Ringer and Gil Ramirez & Neal Moore finished tied for 6/7.

Congratulations to all.

For those of you who have never played in a unit game, they are usually well attended and the unit members bring an amazing array of appetizers. Come and join us.

The November unit game was not all fun and games. It was also the site of the annual election. The unit elected three members to serve a three year term on the board of directors. Elected were Jim Peterson, Sheila Wimer and Kathy Evans. We had a great slate of candidates including Dan Green and Mark Lundblad. It takes a lot of work to make a unit run smoothly and it's great to see people volunteering to take on these responsibilities.

The membership also approved a couple of minor changes to the by-laws.

We had several rank changes during the previous month: Lin Goldstein became a Gold Life Master and the unit had three members become Junior Masters; John Bailey, Marilyn Bailey and Kathy Entus. Congratulations to one and all.

## Sacramento

By Bob Olsen

The annual New Year Holiday Party will be on January 17 at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Dress up and have fun. The Swiss Teams game starts at 12:00 noon.

Dinner to follow the game.

If you need a partner/team call Piper

Smith at 916 645-7012 or [piper@starstream.net](mailto:piper@starstream.net) The price per person is \$25 and the deadline for entries is January 12. Reservation forms are available at the various clubs and in the *Kibitzer*, or phone Katherine Ewing at 916 395-1987. Please send your registration form with check to Katherine Ewing, 376 Little River Way, Sacramento CA 95831.

The dinner choices are prime rib, roasted chicken, or vegetarian ravioli.

The 2010 unit rosters will be distributed, plus a calendar of unit games for 2010. Thanks to the efforts of Dave Bennett the player roster has been updated.

Also, the newly elected unit board members will be introduced.

The next regular Sunday unit game will be on February 14 at the Sacramento Bridge Center. Lunch at noon and the game starts at 1:00 p.m.


## San Francisco

By Kim Fanady

Happy New Year, everyone! Doesn't it seem that not all that long ago, we were eagerly awaiting the new millennium and hoping Y2K wouldn't crash all the computers? And now a decade has passed. How time flies when you're playing bridge!

January means that it's time for another edition of the San Francisco Winter Sectional, the best sectional around. Come one come all to the Janet Pomeroy Center, out by the zoo, on January 16-17. We've got something for everyone: pairs, teams, open, novice, and food! All the details are in our ad elsewhere in this issue. Be there or be square, as you Baby Boomers used to say.

Welcome as always to our new members: Bette Carr, Mary Chiu, Wenshi Luo, Karl Mauzey, Linda Payne, Venetta Rohal, Joan Trauner; and our transfers: Robert Blair (Eastern Massachusetts), Beatrice Feinstein (Florida) and Susan Kolb (Marin). Be sure to greet these players when you meet them

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