

District 21 Unitscope

at the table. Kudos to this month's newly ranked: Club Masters Sylvia Blumenfeld, Marvin Kirchner; Sectional Master Will Steger; Regional Master Dion Smith; and Silver Life Master Yoko Tanaka.

Congratulations all!

QuickTricks will be offering its very popular Easybridge! lesson series starting in February. Send your friends, your relatives, your coworkers, the guy sitting next to you on Muni. We'll make bridge players out of all of them! Check out the club web site at www.quicktricks.org for all the 411.

Many San Franciscans played in the Fall NABC last month, including your devoted columnist. The NABCs are always great fun, but San Diego was a particularly enjoyable venue. I met hordes of bridge players from all over the U.S and the world, England to New Hampshire to Kansas to Japan, with seemingly most of California and half of Canada there. We had very nice mild sunny weather, so partner and I walked around the Gaslamp and East Village areas every day, scoping out many good restaurants and trendy coffeehouses. I saw Eric Rodwell in the gym, lifting weights to stay sharp during the Blue Ribbon. If it's good enough for him, maybe it will improve my bridge too! Lots of Unit 506er's scored notable successes at the table. Check out the results on the ACBL web site to see their names in lights. Here's a New Year's toast to another year of fun and success at the bridge table.

Play well, everyone!

Santa Clara Valley

By Ray Yuenger

It's time to flip open a new calendar, or tap one up on your cell phone. Happy New Year to my readers. Have you made any resolutions about being a better bridge player, a nicer partner, a friendlier opponent? I have too much news to be more reflective, as I've just returned from the national tournament in San Diego. There were a lot of good choices for meals near the host hotel, a great view of a marina and the ocean, and all the bridge you could want. I reminded myself why three sessions a day are too much for me.

In national events, Jennifer & Belinda Gu were 11th in the Life Master Women's Pairs. T-C Yang was 18th in the Nail Life Master Pairs, just ahead of Eugene Hung & Stephen Tu in 19th. Peter Friedland's team was 10th in the Board-A-Match. Michael Bodell & Belinda Gu were 6th in the 0-5000 Blue Ribbon pairs. Eugene Hung was 15th in the Blue Ribbon Pairs. Cheryl Mandala, Yul Inn, and Will Watson were 5th in the three-day North American Swiss.

In regional events, first in Knockouts were Nongyu Li (several times), Jason Chiu, Lynn Yokel & Lynn Shannon, Will Watson & Jennifer Gu, and Lynn & Dale Johanneisen. Kit Humphrey & Henri Farhi were first in a two-session pairs game.

Earlier in the month, at the Diablo Valley Sectional, Ed Barlow placed second overall in a two-session pairs game. Stephen Tu & Eugene Hung and Frank Lowenthal had section and stratification tops in that game. In the round-round teams the next day, unit members were on second place teams in four of seven brackets, sometimes just a few victory points from a mention in this column.

At the B-E-R Sectional, Michael Bodell had two stratification tops in pair games. A Swiss team with Elenalani Lam and Stephen Tu was first in its strat.

At the Oakland Sectional, Ed Barlow, Frank Lowenthal, and Will Watson each had section tops in the Open Pairs, and David Yang had a strat top. Stephen Tu & Eugene Hung had a section top in the under 1500 pairs. Lynn Bartz & Leslie Perkins won in the under 300 pairs. In the round-robin teams, winning in their brackets were Rose Meltzer; Michael Fleisher & Mindy Foss; and David Yang.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Ann Blach, Annabelle Frederickson, Hal Roey, Arlie Stephens (Junior); Timothy Prime, Jimmy Woo (Club); Joanne Nelson (Sectional); Sheri Archer (Regional); Richard Parson (Silver). And Harriel Shea has just turned from Silver into Gold.

Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? After 10 consecutive days of playing bridge, I'm beginning to think I could bene-

fit from more balance in my life.

Hmm, there are a lot of bridge books I haven't finished reading. If this column were an e-mail, I'd put a smiley face to tell you I'm not serious, but you'll have to guess about which statement.

Submit your guesses to:
rayyuenger@comcast.net

San Mateo/Redwood City

By M.C. Hevener

So, very late in the game, I found those illusive Pilgrims. Too late for Thanksgiving, I fear. Now it's time for entirely new decorations, a new menu, perhaps a new attitude.

Recently I found myself down at the parlor without a partner. Fortunately, director Takimi Totes matched me up with Bud and we agreed upon a very, very simple convention card. (Actually, he agreed to go along with my card which was most gracious.) We did just fine, thank you very much. And I think we were both astonished when the results were posted.

So let that be a lesson to you. If you call ahead, every effort will be made to secure a like minded partner for you. Think of it as a huge opportunity. Rare and huge, but still an opportunity.

Make it a New Year's resolution.

New members to our unit include Aaron Jones, Chuck Jones, Susan Koblick, Elizabeth Root, James and Maureen Sansbury, Karen Wisialowski, and Barbara and Will Wood. Welcome all to Unit 498.

We would like to recognize new Junior Masters Eileen Battat, Linda Duncan, Kate Horricks, Richard Recht and Ginny Wailes. New Sectional Master William Epperly is to be congratulated and new Regional Masters include Nancy Lee and Ginny MacLean. Carl Sutherland has achieved NABC Master status and Alice Roe is a new Bronze Life Master. We now count over 505 members right here in our unit.

Your board of directors is hard at work planning unit games for the coming winter months, but don't forget that we sponsor our own San Mateo Sectional Tournament in February. Think about those silver points and secure a partner for this event to be held on Feb. 27 & 28 at the San Mateo Events Center. Al Malouf is heading up our efforts and he can be reached at:

acmalouf@aol.com

The best way to learn about our regular schedule, see flyers on our special events and to view photos of all the fun we have is just to Google us at "Unit 498." If you add it to your favorites, you can check out recent results there, too.

And don't forget there is a brief lesson and mini-game every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. ("Fun Bridge"), and we have added another lesson and mini-game on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Join us and get your game in shape for 2010.

See you at the tables.

Santa Cruz

By Susan Benich

We came, we saw, we conquered! Well, some of us came away winners at the San Diego National Tournament like Jan Winham & Judy Murdock who made us proud. Congratulations to them and the other participants and winners, Bill McIntosh, Candace Dauphinot, Jane Jennings, Jim Slinger, Heather Cutting, Bette & Dave Harken, Nancy Driscoll, Mary Peterson, Hal Rogers, Howard Feldstein, Jack Haeger, Susan & John Benich.

Congratulations to new Club Masters Gretchen Bassett and Dave Harken and to new Junior Master Ann Wainright. We welcome new members Dori & Bruce Arthur and Rachel Spence.

In January Nancy Driscoll will offer Easybridge! lessons through the Capitola Recreation Department. Other offerings from Nancy's Bridge House include a 99er game at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, an intermediate class at 1:00 p.m. on Sundays with a 199er game the fourth Sunday of the month, and winter session classes at all levels to begin in January.

Pam Benz is giving you an opportunity to be famous—at least on Monday evenings! To qualify, partnerships must play in at least three Monday evening open games and be

the top scoring partnership for the month. The reward is a free game (one per year), your name listed at the club, and your name published in the *Forum* column.

Talking about fame, did you see how photogenic Irma & Peter Andrews, Joanne Brown & Mick Friedberg were in the 2009 Mexican Resort Regional newsletter? Irma & Peter scored 1st in B and 3rd/4th in A in the Swiss Teams in addition to scoring 1st in the Sayulita CKO. Joanne and Mick scored 1st in the Vallarta KO.

Way to go Senors and Senioritas!

Do you know who was known as the "Songbird of Bridgeport, Connecticut" in her youth?

Nancy Wainer announces that beginning January 13 she is starting a 6:30 p.m. Wednesday 49er game with a 15-20 minute review lesson prior to the game. It will be a relaxed social introduction to duplicate for newer players and kitchen table players.

Her Bridge Camp will move to the third Thursday of the month instead of the first.

High scoring pairs in November were: Ken Llacera & Dick Wasserstrom (65.28%); Jane Jennings & Kel Pierce (66.30%); Diana Schilling & John Hadley (67.13%); Ann Ottenberg & Mick Friedberg (69.54%); Jim Slinger & Ken Llacera (70.28%); Carol Maggipinto & Charlie Pender (70.37%); and in Monterey Carol Maggipinto & Malcolm Sprott had a whopping 76.16% game. Kudos to all.

The songbird is Marion Edmondson. Ask her to tell you her story, but don't be surprised if she downplays her talent.

Here are some comments that I have overheard at our club: "I'm never doing that again!" "They're just killing us." "My fault" "I'm going home." "Boy, that was brutal." "I didn't mean to do that, I meant to do this." "I shouldn't play this game." "Rough day" "I didn't bid hearts. Well, I sorta did, but I didn't do it right." "I shoulda made four." "I wanted to shut up, so I could double, but I just kept blabbering." "There are no problems, just opportunities for solution."

And, I witnessed a funny incident that occurred twice with two different defenders on two different occasions: While the declarer was contemplating which card to play from the dummy the defender in all seriousness called for the card to be played! What a game.

This is my last bridge column for the *Forum*. It turned out to be a labor of love. Thanks for sharing news with me, for offering constructive criticisms, and for flattering me with positive feedback.

My sincere apologies to all of you who were accidentally left out when I reported winners and to some of you who were given credit for achievements that you really didn't achieve.

Santa Rosa

By Randee Dimond

It's that time of year for sugar plums, champagne, and the Fall NABC. While still underway, we do have some sweet memories. Among them: walking into a room full of diagonally screened tables, ready for one of the many "big deal" events of the tournament. There's nothing like NABCs, for sure. U509 had much to brag about including Larry Hansen & Gary Robinson winning an Open Pairs, Sara Rothmuller also won one and Bob Klein and team won a KO. Patty Harberson & Carol Zocchi earned a section top. Erwin Linzer sat atop the leader board midway through the mini blue ribbon event. What a thrill to see him headlined in the Daily Bulletin. Many others scored successes or just generally had a great time (the great time group includes me).

Treat yourself to a tour through the results on the ACBL web site. Congratulations to all who made the trip. Best excuse for not being there: Ramona Haller was in Nepal climbing the Himalayas.

November was full of winners at the Gallery. The celebrated many include Hargreaves trophy winners Kate Hill & Joanne Pransky. Our other tops went to Helene & Roy Gay, Barbara & Lou Meola (with a 73% game), Sally Jamison, Mimi Armstrong, Michael Livensparger, Marilyn & John Farnsworth, Peggy Leiser, Nini Arabit, Bob Klein, Joanne Pransky, Elise Hen-

derson, Pat Frenaye, Eleanor Wales, Wendy Zukas, Larry Ruff, Hazel Garlick, Jon Merry, Lee Grams, Danielle Hejmanowski, Gary Robinson, Chris Flindt, Barbara Mcauliffe, Ann Slater, Donna Edwards, John Kozero, Jennifer Jones, Dave Pankratz, Debbie Tesler, Carl Tillmanns, Frieda Lummer, John Vion, Nancy Lowe, Pat & Jerry Scoville, Jeanette & Greg Merenbach, Patricia Gittings, Larry Hansen, Laura Camm, El Shaw, Gloria Hersch, Jan Hess, Jackie Ortiz, Erwin Linzer, John Kozero, Larry Borsian, Richard Zalenski, Nancy Johnson, Bob & Chris Evans, Shirley Blum, Barry Samuel, Tom Gee, Mary Omodt, Meryl Fischer, Michael Nistler, Jeanne Sharp, Don Carman, Kathy Venton, John Richardson, & Brian Haley. The team of Kate Hill, Wendy Merget, Brian Haley and me took a charity team event in Sonoma.

We also had a special visit one night from Deborah Campagnono, a member of the Italian Women's team and her partner David Domenech. It was great to have them at the club. Congratulations to all these winners and the runners up who play to win every day.

Don't forget the maiden session of supervised play is Friday January 8 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The session will have a facilitator and guided play through several boards. Two absolute beginner classes begin in January; Thursday nights starting January 14 and Tuesday mornings January 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call your friends. Our upcoming unit games are January 10 and February 7. You can always call Kathy Venton at 591-5015 for questions or partnership needs.

We send good wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year to all bridge players of good will everywhere. We miss those who cannot be with us. We send warm regards to Julia Towery as we remember her and her wonderful soups. A new year's resolution: Be stingy with criticism and generous with praise. See you in 2010.

South County

By Jim Solomon

Happy new year, all, and we're starting with a bang! Terry Terzian will offer a New Year's Day game and party on Friday, January 1, starting at noon (and ending around 3:30, at his Redwood Bridge Club's home the Aitken Community Center, at 17800 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. He'll offer both Open and NLM sections (if attendance warrants). Bring "finger" foods to share and munch as you play; Terry'll provide the punch.

Take a break from football; come enjoy some good bridge and great food!

A number of clubs are moving their games are moving this month, some temporarily, some permanently. Terry Terzian's Wednesday morning Lakeside Bridge game will move from San Lorenzo to the Aitken Community Center in Castro Valley, home of Terry's Monday Redwood Bridge Club. January 6 will be first Lakeside day in its new location, and it'll have a new starting time, too: 12:30 p.m.

Terry's offering an inducement: play in the Monday and Wednesday afternoon games at Aitken in the same week, and you pay only \$1.00 in table fees for the Wednesday (a \$6.00 discount).

Two other games sponsored by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District will be in new temporary quarters for the winter, due to H.A.R.D. renovations. Bill Hodge's Thursday morning Ashland Bridge Club will take up temporary residence at the San Lorenzo Park Community Center (the former home of the Lakeside club) on January 7. My Thursday afternoon Easybridge! game will also be moving, from the Weekes Park Community Center in Hayward to another H.A.R.D. community center about a mile to the west, the Southgate Community Center, located at 26780 Chiplay Avenue (at the corner of Sleepy Hollow Avenue), also in Hayward.

This move will take effect on January 14. Speaking of discounts, Charlie Conrad's lowering the table fees to \$4.00 for the month of January at his Tutoriale Bridge Club for both his Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon games. To accommodate

(Continued on page 12)