

District 21 Unitscope

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Chris Brown have returned from Hawaii; however Wendy & Tom Favero and Joyce & John Ielimi are still enjoying their visit to Hawaii. Janet Van Kessel is under the weather; we wish her our best.

Ralph Jungwirth has become a Gold Life Master; Sharon Fauss a Silver Life Master, and Kathy High is our unit's newest Life Master, Dave Jenkins is now an NABC Master, and because of an exceptionally fine showing at his first tournament in Monterey, Bill Parker is a Club Master. Congratulations to all.

Sadly, we've had two player deaths in recent days. Both were physicians.

Many of us remember Jay Wani as one of the regular steak grillers at our October Patio Parties; he died after a short illness.

We've not seen LM Karl Ryerson in recent years; however, older players will remember the strong partnership of Karl & Lee Maddocks.

Glenn Van Denburg has been re-elected unit president. Glenn is a native Californian and an army veteran. He was promoted from first grade to second grade at Emery Elementary in Imperial Beach and later was in the first graduating class from Mar Vista HS in Imperial Beach. Joan and he raised their children in San Diego where Glenn was a member of the San Diego Fencing Association. He was transferred to northern California by Sears. In Modesto his only partner until 1999 was George Gaskins. They played their last game together only 10 days before George's death from cancer. Joan says of Glenn, "That wonderful man."

Palo Alto

By Marian Kelly

Three invaluable contributors to the activities of Palo Alto Unit 503 were honored at the unit party held in December. Sue Johnston, one of our directors, was given the annual award for sportsmanship and now has her name engraved on the plaque honoring each year's recipient which hangs on our back wall.

The selection committee, when asked how they came to their conclusion, responded in part as follows: "In addition to always being very conscientious in terms of friendliness and ethical obligations when she plays, her directing plays a large part in making her a standout for the award. She does substantially more than most directors to encourage ethical and sportsmanlike play in the games she directs. She thereby creates a much better atmosphere in terms of fun and fairness than directors who lack the experience or inclination to get the rulings right. Sue is always willing to answer questions of less experienced players.

She may be the most knowledgeable director we have on the ACBL laws and their interpretation."

Our two Alans, Templeton & Cummings, shared the service award this year, and their names also adorn the back wall, not for the first time. Alan Templeton is everywhere. He has just retired from his position as the board's treasurer for many years, an immense task for this large unit.

He created and maintains our unit website, www.paloaltobridge.com. It's a huge site, with a great variety of information on it. Recent data show that its visits now number more than half a million. If you haven't seen it, please do take a look. Additionally, if something needs to be done at the center, Alan is almost certain to be on hand. Cleaning up last year's flood, helping at classes, on-call as a director, just for starters.

Alan Cummings is equally valuable. He also served on the unit board, was a very active president for two years. Several times Alan has single-handedly recognized and pursued a vision for our unit. He initiated our Education Fund with its unusual charitable status (donors may not deduct contributions to the unit, but may deduct education fund contributions); he urged unit purchase of a dealing machine, was repeatedly turned down by the board, but persevered; our dealing machine has now dealt just under 100,000 hands.

He set up our library and arranges speakers for our lecture series. There's more, but this column has a word limit!

The popular Sunday unit games featured Swiss Teams in January, with 18 teams in

the open section and six 99er teams. The strong women's team of Carol Brigham, Arlene Levy, Margery Yates and Betsy Steele took the big honors in the open, while the 99ers team of Randy Rhody, Marlene Smeed, Richard Treakle and Carolyn Treakle led the 99ers field at the end.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Joe Freeman

It's not too soon to be thinking about our sectional tournament on July 10 & 11 at the Vintage House in Sonoma. Details are posted on the ACBL website (Sectional Tournaments) and our Unit 512 website. We especially want to welcome Non-Life Masters, including beginners. We have separate events to allow newer players to compete only against players at their own level. Following our newly established traditions, it will be a friendly tournament with fabulous food, but also a well run tournament with pre dealt hands and Bridgemate scoring for pairs events.

Before our tournament, you might consider the sectional tournament in Santa Rosa on March 27-28. The Santa Rosa folks are strong supporters of our events and put on fine tournaments.

Wow! We just set an attendance record set at the Friday game in Napa; 21 tables. Since this club is privately owned, we sometimes forget to credit the hard work that Anastasia Lonan puts into the club, especially the food. Clyde Smith does a great job helping her with the ACBLScore and Bridgemate aspects of the game.

Attendance at our Sunday games does not match the levels obtained in the club games on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Sunday games, held on the first and third Sundays each month always award "extra masterpoints." Twelve of the games are unit championships and almost all games award "triple points."

It's said that the Sunday games attract tougher competition. However, only one of the four winning pairs in January, Duane & Ann Smith were Flight A. The overalls winners on January 3 were Flight B team Chris Larsen & Sheila Malinoski while the other direction winners were Flight C, Barbara Lemme & Kathleen Gilmour.

On January 17 Flight C player Frank Thompson, with the director as a last minute fill-in, was the *East/West* winner opposite the Smiths.

Anyone having suggestions on how to improve attendance might contact one of our unit officers: Don Powell, president; Gary Henry, vice president; Joyce Vass, secretary; Barbara Lemme, treasurer; or me (Joe Freeman) in my role as club manager for the Sunday games.

Speaking of winners, Jean Corwin & Jim Quarry had a 73% score in a game in a January game in Sonoma.

Reno

By Kathy Evans

March is certainly coming in like a lion: Saint Patrick's Day; March Madness, the Ides of March and the Spring Nationals at the Grand Sierra Resort, March 11-21, 2010. During the Nationals, the bridge club will be closed. Sheila Wimer is looking for volunteers to man the information desk during the Nationals. If you can help out, please contact Sheila at 775 852-0368 or e-mail to: sheilabrokenhill@sbcglobal.net

The unit game is scheduled for March 28.

An apology goes out to June Lucas for omitting her name in the list of winners during the Reno Regional. Sorry, June.

On January 17 a Charity Horse Race game was held to benefit Reno Youth Bridge. There were 15 tables and a lot of good food. The winners of the charity game: 1st overall were Lin Goldstein & Steve Print; followed by Nels Erickson & Conrad Evans, David Weinberg & Richard Michelsen, Matthew Kofsky & Sharon Bahry, Donna McLeod & Virginia Kellermeyer, Atam Lalchandani & Charlotte Falk. For the Horse Race game, each pair was handicapped based upon the pair's masterpoints.

A pair could bet on themselves or on any other pair or not at all. When the pairs crossed the finish line, 1st was the pair of David Weinberg & Richard Michelsen;

2nd, Lin Goldstein & Steve Print; 3rd, Nels Erickson & Conrad Evans. Congratulations to Jill Wallace who placed on three different pairs and collected on all three bets. In addition to having fun, the game raised \$454.20 for Reno Youth Bridge. Thanks to Bud Brewer, Kathy Lane, Rich Scoggin, Molly Rakestraw and Grace Martin for their work in putting the Charity Horse Race game together.

The January unit game was held on January 24. There were 12 tables. This month the overalls were evenly divided between the *E/W* and the *N/S* pairs: The *E/W* pairs took the top three spots and the *N/S* pairs took the bottom three. 1st overall were Dan Green & Gilbert Ramirez; 2nd, David Weinberg & Richard Michelsen; 3rd, Lorita Spalding & Regina Houston; 4th, Nels Erickson & Conrad Evans; 5th, Dorothy Brewer & Girard Brewer; 6th, Donna McLeod & Virginia Kellermeyer. In B, Brenda & Paul Pugsley were 4th and Tutty Wetzel & Elinor Erickson were 5th. In C, Carol Barker & Ken Dean finished 2nd.

We had several rank changes as of this reporting: Mary Aaroe, Caesar Deangelo, Kathryn Bohrer, and Kathy Entus became Club Masters. Donna Deroos became a Regional Master and Arlene Hansen and Marge Mix became NABC Masters.

Congratulations to Mary, Caesar, Kathryn Bohrer, Kathy Entus, Donna, Arlene, and Marge.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the Reno April Showers Sectional. The popular 5-day sectional will be held April 14-18 at the Ramada Inn at 1000 East 6th Street in Reno.

Sacramento

By John McMurdie

The deaths of Frank Weil and Hugo Lee on October 23 and 31 respectively last year, was an end of an era for Sacramento Bridge. They were stalwarts to be missed. Lt. Col. Frank Weil was born in Patterson, New Jersey to Ukrainian immigrant parents, answered his nation's call in 1943 by enlisting in the Army Air Corps, flew 22 missions as bombardier on B-17s over Germany, sometimes in the lead position of the flight, and ended up a navigation instructor as master navigator for the B-52 wing at Mather Air Force Base here in Sacramento. After retirement from the Air Force he taught English for 15 years at El Camino High School while immersing himself in Sacramento bridge, writing the Sacramento Unitscope for something in excess of 10 years, founded a bridge club at his school, and ran bridge games on cruise ships. A photo nut, he had the pictures to prove it. Frank is survived by two sons and the appropriate number of descendants.

Hugo Lee, at 27 years and with family, left Shanghai, China ahead of the communist takeover, and by the circuitous route of Taipei, Hong Kong, New Orleans (LSU), and San Francisco (UC), arrived at Sacramento City College, from which he retired Professor Emeritus in Physics in 1986.

With an excess of energy, Hugo began a career as a bridge director and club owner in 1972, which for nearly 37 years developed into a very successful set of sessions. He was innovative, running one session team games and finishing matches in less than an hour pairing by hand (no computer), and noticing that some of the ladies didn't wish to play "against the sharks" (Life Masters), instituted an invitational second section which continues in the two most successful games of the week at the Dante Club location where he held court throughout his years. Hugo is survived by two daughters, a brother and two sisters, and also the appropriate descendants, as well as his faithful companion through it all, wife Willi Lee.

Frank and Hugo had two things in common, a certain twinkle of the eye, and a memorable smile. They died at 91 and 88 respectively, lives well lived. R.I.P.

By Barbara Morman

Beware, the Ides fall on Monday this year which may or may not be the day you recognize you'll have to forfeit a couple of dates to finish your 2009 540 & 1040 by April 15. Maybe your partner is a CPA and will help you expedite the

filing so you can get back to finalizing your grasp of Bergen Raises before you head to Reno for the last weekend of the NABC.

Stuck in Tomato Town for the month? Here's what's going on at your bridge clubs this month: March 13, Ann's Fun ABC, Saturday Pot Luck Swiss Teams; March 14, River City club championship; March 21, unit game at Folsom Bridge Center; March 22-28, Folsom Bridge Center: Charity Days for the ACBL Education Fund, Courage House, Mustard Seed School, and Haitian Rebuilding; March 31, Auburn, barometer scored Charity Pairs Wednesday; John McMurdie & Al Chow are setting several club championship dates throughout the month; Salad & Something is happy to have Pam Fitch join in for the work and fun of the food and bridge game; Foothill DBC is taking reservations in March for the April 17 workshop; Folsom Bridge Center, likewise, workshop is all day April 18.

Talk about special events: 17 tables of Bridge Fun happened January 31 at Folsom. Players with 500+ MPs paired with newer up-and-coming players. Bill Corliss & Darlene Bryte were delighted with their *N/S* first. Sue Caughey & Mary Radmanich swept the entire field with their 62% game *E/W*. The chicken salad sandwiches and rich navy bean soup were delicious and everyone had their fill. Thank you for a great bridge party to hasten winter away.

San Francisco

By Kim Fanady

The San Francisco Winter Sectional in January was a rousing triumph! The tournament produced record attendance and receipts, and was our most successful since 2004. The unit board of directors received many compliments on the organization, food, and all other aspects of the event. Thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who made it all happen, the directing staff who made it all run smoothly, and the legions of players who turned out in force.

As usual, many Unit 506ers distinguished themselves at the Winter Sectional. Among the victorious were: In the Flight A/X Swiss: Sid Lorvan, Robin Roche, Bob Ciszek, winners! Others placing were: Mark Ralph; Zak Mohammed; Victor Chubukov & Angeliki Magklara; Lauren Friedman & Tom McLaughlin.

In the B/C/D Swiss: Alan Bostrom, Bob Chase, Sue Ruwart, David Gendreau and Stephanie Rogers; Christopher Friday, Jeanette Shinsako, Jeff Reid & Ashesh Parekh; Jane McLaughlin, Mike Bozarth and Carol Doll; Ron Mulcare, Jean Wildberg and Mike Fehr.

In the pairs, Steve Smolen & Foster Geng won the two-session Open Pairs!

Others placing in the big event were Adam Portley; Vicki Lerner & David Strauss; Jo Ginsberg; Jane McLaughlin; Gary Near & Emanuel Vacakis; Tom McLaughlin & David Achterkirchen. In the Sat. Side Pairs: Ron Goodman; Gayle & Jim Tunnell; Sig Ketterer; Lynn Magnet.

In the Sat 199er Pairs (34½ tables!) Leila Marcus, 2nd overall, 1st Strat F; Jan Gigliotti; Gay Yamigawa & Kathy Lompa; Joel Rossman; Etan Cohen & Ed Mah. In the Sat. Side Pairs, Michael Scharlaw & Nick Paleologos, 2nd overall, 1st Strats B & C; Zak Mohammed; Cecily Rogers & Aleksandr Retnitskiy; Gail Gabiati & Maureen Vasquez. Side Pairs, Ari Greenberg, winner with a ridiculous 74%!; Jeff & Genie Reynolds; Elaine Lowenthal; Douglas Grant; Lynn Magnet; Gayle & Jim Tunnell, 1st Strat B; Ken Jacobs & Donna Mandel; Tom & Madlyn Stein; Judy Soong & Gay Yamigawa, 1st Strat C.

Nice going, all! And sorry to anyone I missed.

This month's unit game is the annual party and pairs game honoring the unit's Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners, on March 27. The ceremony is lots of fun, usually featuring silly hats and bad 80's music.

Come celebrate our winners' successes! Next month will be Swiss Teams on April 17. All games are at the Masonic Temple, 850 Brotherhood Way, and all are welcome.

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