

District 21 Unitscope

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And we wish to congratulate a new Life Master, George Blondin of Sacramento.

San Francisco

By Kim Fanady

We are very pleased to report that, to paraphrase Mark Twain, rumors of the death of bridge have been greatly exaggerated. Bridge is alive and kicking in San Francisco - this month we have 22 new members and seven reinstated members. Don't know where you all came from, but we're glad to have you - welcome! Twenty-nine names is far too many for this little column, so everyone just say hello to every new face you see at the table. We also have three transfers: Irene Edwards (Marin) William Malenzi (Pittsburgh) and Michael Wong (New Jersey). Welcome to you folks too!

My very favorite regional, Monterey, and my very favorite sectional, San Francisco (of course!) both happened in January, but too late to be reported in this Feb. column. Check back next month for glowing reports on the exploits of Unit 506ers.

And good luck to everyone at the Prez Day Regional this month in Burlingame.

The unit game schedule kicks off this month with a pairs event on February 20, followed by the annual party and pairs game honoring the unit's Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners on March 27. Did you win? Did your friends win? Come celebrate! All games are at the Masonic Temple, 850 Brotherhood Way, and all are welcome.

Quicktricks' very popular Easybridge! lesson series gets underway on February 22. Send us your friends, your relatives, the guy sitting next to you on Muni - we'll make bridge players out of all of them! It's a great way to start learning the game or to brush up those rusty skills from long ago.

For the full schedule and details go to the

club website at www.quicktricks.org

Congrats to this month's masterpoint ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Etan Cohen, Dana Dirickson, Ed Mah, Joel Rossman; Club Masters Louis Golm, Daisy Roman; Regional Master Kathleen Young, and Bronze Life Master Chris Friday.

Nice going all!

We sadly say goodbye this month to two longtime unit stalwarts: Mardelle Buss and Art Carfagni. Neither has been seen at the tables much recently, but they were SF fixtures a few years back. Art was a past unit board member and *Duplicate Data* editor, and was well known for his dry sense of humor. He once wrote an entire issue of the *DD* based on *Tales of the City*, featuring thinly disguised bridge players. Hilarious! Art and Mardelle will both be missed. Our condolences to their families and friends.

One game of bridge: \$8.00.

Winning one game of bridge: 1 MP.

Playing bridge with a good partner: Priceless!

So in honor of Valentine's Day, love your partner: overlook his mistakes, praise his fine play and clever bids, smile, and go get him a cookie!

San Mateo/Redwood City

By M.C. Hevener

Welcome to Twenty-Ten! By now all those Standard American resolutions are a dim memory for all. But I have some ideas as a springboard going forward.

Last year's pandemic pandemonium is history. No more salmonella, no more swine flu. But one toxic remains and I'm declaring war on this one. It's the Bayshore Blight and it's alive and well.

Thus, please resolve not to be obnoxious at the bridge table. Avoid discussing touchy plays until you have moved on.

Then, vow to clean up at the end of the

session. Get your coffee mug and two others and take them into the kitchen and into that dishwasher.

Resolve, too, to help someone else in some way. Explain a convention. Share a ride. Fight off the Bayshore Blight with a dose of human kindness. At the end of the year, tell me things have improved.

Unit 498 had a fabulous Christmas brunch in December and I am happy to report that we came in right on budget. Unlike the feds, there was no need to borrow any money from the Chinese at the end of the year. We entertained approximately 40 newcomers in their own section, in addition to the Open Pairs event at the same time.

Among the newcomers, top honors with a 72% game went to Bev Robertson & Lois Scott. Close behind at 70% were Dawn Potter & Carol Anne Gennaro. Other newcomer pairs taking home masterpoints included Drew Donovan & Bob Crosby, tied with Cathryn Clary & Dawn Black. Cathryn & Dawn were a brand new partnership for the day and they proved that a blind date is better than no date at all!

Also on the newcomer leader board, we saw the names of Ann Ryan, Kay McNab, Kathi DeGrosz, Karen Throop, and Joy Jeffery & Leila Jensen. Congratulations all you newcomers and we'll hope to see more of you this year. You can view a slide show of the fun at games on our web site at www.Unit498.com

The Open Pairs division was handily won by that steady partnership of Carl Sutherland & Philip Scatena. Linda Schwarz & Nancy Pappas captured the *E/W* first place. Others who scratched included Pat Litfin & Bob Robbins, Al Malouf & Ann Javer, Mary Jane Armacost *et moi*.

Points were also awarded to Mary Ann De Moss & Cherie Black, who tied with Rosemary Clawson & Ed Hornung. Other winners included our guests for the day, club owner Patty Frederick & David Hoffman.

Now, turning toward February, there are two tournaments that should immediately go into your calendar. First off is the regional in Burlingame at the Marriott from Feb. 9-15. There will be games at every level for pairs and teams and this is the place for newcomers to score big time.

Then, please note that our Unit 498 is putting on our own San Mateo Sectional tournament at the County Expo Center on the weekend of Feb. 27-28. Get the full schedule of events on our website. Oh, those illusive silver points! Well, come on down and try to take some silver home with you.

Remember, as goes January, so goes the rest of the year. So, if you are a Twitterer, keep right on Tweeting, but I'm off to play bridge for a while.

Santa Clara Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Since February is a short month, I'll give you a short column to read. (It's really a function of a lack of news.) Tune into to sjbridge.org to learn about our upcoming unit games and special club games once the unit board and the directors decide on them (after this column is composed). I'm going to take a look back at December events.

Thirty tables of players turned out for our Unit 507 Holiday Party, including a 9-table 299er game. The game was preceded by a

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game bid is acceptable for supporting a five card suit, but can be very dicey when your suit is an obvious four cards. Today, when I discuss the style of play I emphasize that if you open or overcall a hand of cheese that you will not pass any forcing bids and will bid it to the finish. I am tired of playing 4NT or the opponents suit after a cuebid; that a new suit by responder is forcing seemed to have gotten lost somewhere.

Opponents that don't know the conventions they are playing, how to use them, and are unable to properly explain them just add to the confusion at the table. You look at a traveler score today and wonder if anyone was playing the same hand.

Someone took away the big pair games at the tournaments and substituted Knockouts; I miss the big Barometer Pairs game at the Sacramento Regional. The Midnight Swiss Teams also seems to have disap-

peared. Thanks to everyone who contributed food and drink and helped with setting up the room. I'm glad the weather cooperated this year.

As usual in December, there were few local sectionals, but with Great Western STAC week allowing us to play in our clubs for silver points. Unit members scoring over 65% included Al Becker & Jewel Schimke, Lynn Bartz & Leslie Perkins, Manju Agarwal, Frank Lowenthal, Lynn Yokel, Lynn Shannon & Dianne Shannon, Rajeeva Sharma & Corinn Carter.

Nancie Plumb & Dan Hoffman had a Great Western top in the NLM category.

At the Palm Springs Regional, Lynn Yokel & Alan Malloy were on a winning Knockout team. At the Reno Regional, Henri Farhi was first in a two-session pairs game and in a Knockout. Rich Parsons' Knockout team won.

Lynn Yokel & Ray Yuenger had a section top in a two-session pairs game.

The odds in Reno finally caught up with me. I don't mean at the bridge table or gambling. After finding the roads clear coming and going for years, I finally had to drive back with chains for the first time. That'll teach me.

Next time I won't plan to leave early to go back to work. Those who stayed on to play had clear sailing over the highway passes.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Cheng Ping Chang, Devesh Goyal, Sheila Peterson, Kirk Woolsey (Club); Sona Bhabra (Sectional).

I wish Jack Verson and Marshall Yancey steady and swift recoveries.

If I've missed any news, let me know at rayyuenger@comcast.net

Santa Rosa

By Randee Dimond

What does the pitcher say when the leadoff man up hits a homer? "Well, there goes the no-hitter."

The lesson: be optimistic, but not delusional. You might make some errors in 2010. The trick is not to make the same ones over and over and to recognize when things go wrong (a failing finesse, an unmake-able game) it's sometimes just the lie of the cards. And the best thing about duplicate is, everybody in the room gets the same lie of the cards. So when you pick up your eleventh 3-3-3-4 eight pointer of the day, don't complain to management - just make the most of the opportunity to shine with your featureless landscape.

Making the most of opportunity is Jennifer (diamonds are a girl's best friend) Jones who achieved Diamond LM rank, 5000+ MPs, a rare, glorious achievement.

Others moving up the MP ladder include Sally Jamison, Jerry Murphy, Debby Walton, El Shaw, Mimi Armstrong, & Chris Evans. Good work all.

December was a month of many highlights. First and foremost was the Holiday Party. The room was saturated with glamor and good cheer. Winners were Tom Vecchio, Mark Hersko, Erwin Linzer, Larry Hansen, Larry Borsian, John Kozero, Peg Devine, Mary Spellman, Kathy Venton, Dave Pankratz, Beth Hoffman, & Jane Sims. Thanks to director Wayne Gordon and organizer Mark Hersko, a fine time was

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ACBL

SAN MATEO SPRING SECTIONAL

FEBRUARY 27 and 28, 2010

SAN MATEO COUNTY EXPO CENTER

2495 SOUTH DELAWARE ST.

SAN MATEO, CA 94403

MEETING PAVILION BUILDING

Saturday, February 27

Sunday, February 28

12:30 pm - Single Session Open Stratified Pairs
0-750/2000/Unlimited

10:00 am - Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams
(4 matches, 7 boards)

12:30 pm - Art Weinstein Memorial 199er
Champion Single Session
Limited Strat. Pairs 0/20/50/100/200

Swiss Teams 2nd session
Time (3 matches, 7 boards)
TBA Flight A/X 0-3000/3000+
Strats B/C/D 0-500/1000/1500

6:00 pm - Single Session Strati-Flighted
Open Pairs
Flight A/X 0-2000/2000+
Strats B/C/D 0-200/500/1000

10:00 am - Swiss 199'er Teams 0-50/100/200
(one session only)

10:00 am - Single Session Stratified Pairs
(0-750/2000/unlimited)

3:00 pm - Single Session Stratified Pairs
(0-750/2000/Unlimited)

ACBL SANCTION # S- 1002067

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PARTNERSHIP CHAIR: Mary Bates (650) 863-7575 Email: marybates@rcn.com

Mid-Chart Conventions allowed for Flight A events only.

Table Fees: \$10.00 per player per session. \$11.00 for non ACBL & unpaid members

FREE PARKING

UNIT 498 HAS PAID FOR YOUR PARKING. IF THERE IS AN ATTENDANT AT THE ENTRANCE GATE, SHOW YOUR CONVENTION CARD FOR ADMITTANCE.

DIRECTIONS

From 101 take 92 West and exit on Delaware St. Turn right and go ½ mile south to Saratoga Drive, turn left to 1346 Saratoga Drive, the Event Center's main side entrance.

From 280 take 92 East and exit on Delaware St. Turn right and go ½ mile south to Saratoga Drive, turn left to 1346 Saratoga Drive, the Event Center's main side entrance.

From El Camino Real, turn East on 25th Ave. to Delaware St., turn left to Saratoga Drive., then right to 1346 Saratoga Drive, the Event Center's main side entrance.

USE SARATOGA DRIVE ENTRANCE