

The Unit 507 Board continues to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom. There isn't much news to report from our last meetings.

Per the Unit's Bylaws, the Board should have between nine and 12 members. We currently have nine, so if you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else, the Board may fill one of its vacancies. You are welcome to attend our monthly meetings whether or not a Board member. To get an invitation, contact President Mich Ravera, whose email address is on our website at [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org).

Mischel Postas, while still the Vice-President of the Board, has retired as our long-time sectional coordinator, and we are looking for someone willing to serve in that capacity. There are a few duties involved that Mischel can explain.

Speaking of sectionals, in normal times the Unit usually holds a spring and a fall sectional. Last October we were able to hold a kind of mini-sectional on short notice, in between the Delta and Omicron COVID variants. This pandemic has had a dramatic effect on face-to-face bridge. The Unit Board has no one, including me, willing to lead the organizational efforts for a spring sectional, so nothing is scheduled. We will get the word out if that situation changes.

Pandemic circumstances keep changing. I hear we are about a week away from the State of California relaxing or eliminating its masking requirements and placing safety protocols in the hands of local health authorities. I also hear that Santa Clara County is going to keep mask requirements in place, so we have to stay tuned to the news. (I just got a new bundle of masks, and I intend to keep wearing them for my protection and yours.)

Elimination of mask requirements is one of the preconditions agreed on by the Unit Board before we look for a site to reopen the San Jose Bridge club. There are a number of conditions that I won't repeat here, but if you are interested, contact me as I am the head of the reopening committee. Contact information for all Board members appears on our website.

Players keep advancing through the ranks. Congratulations to the following Masters: Li Zhang (Club); Kumar Ramaiyer (Sectional); Susan Dietz (Life); Pangjie Xu (Bronze); John Stremel (Silver).

Though the Omicron variant reduced the table count for the Monterey 2022 Regional to 36% of what it was pre-pandemic in 2020, a number of unit members braved the prevailing conditions to play face-to-face (or mask-to-mask). In team events, Ken Rosenfeld, Ron Baron, Rick Jasper, & John Wachsman placed first in their knockout bracket. Ron & Ken went on to place first in another knockout bracket with H. Paul Davis. Rick & John also went on to place first in another knockout bracket with Lynn

Bartz & Brenna Wundram. First in their brackets were teams with Michael & Kevin Rosenberg, with Frank Xie & Pangjie Xu, and with Anne Wilson.

Rick & John also were first in a mid-flight pairs event. Bruce & Barbara Luttrell won a two-session open pairs game. Kevin & Michael Rosenberg tied for first in the premier barometer pairs event. Michael also had a section top in another pairs game.

I'm saddened to report the passing of Fran (Frances) Dickman, a Grand Life Master in every sense of the phrase. You can find an online memorial at <https://www.lastingmemories.com/memorial/frances-k-dickman?obituaries>.

I'm doubly saddened to report the passing of Carole Dietz, a long-time respected director at the San Jose Bridge Center. Her friendly and gruff personality charmed many a bridge player and her games were among the most popular.

The Unit's leading point earners for 2021 have been announced by the ACBL. Congratulations here will have to suffice in lieu of a unit game honoring these individuals. The Ace of Clubs ("AC") is for points earned in club games, while the mini-McKenney ("MM") is for points earned in tournaments as well. The following individuals led in both competitions at the listed masterpoint ranges: Fadi Maamari (0-5); Joan Albers (5-20); Kathy Vita (20-50); Archana Rathnakar (50-100); Betsy Wagner (100-200); Linda Kenigsberg (200-300); John Stremel (500-1,000); Ken Imboden (1,500-2,000); Bud Biswas (5,000-7,500); and Bill Langlois (7,500-10,000). The leaders differed in five masterpoint ranges: Gerald Hewitt (MM), Joanne Cornbleet (AC) (300-500); Vilas Namjoshi (MM), Preston Kauk (AC) (1,000-1,500); Kevin Rosenberg (MM), Paul Nelson (AC) (2,500-3,500); Lynn Shannon (MM), Stu Goodgold (AC) (3,500-5,000); and Michael Rosenberg (MM), Diane Shannon (AC) (over 10,000). Well done all!

There has been one Unit Board meeting since my last column appeared in February. By the time you read this, there will have been another meeting, but I can't report what hasn't occurred yet.

At the last meeting the Board decided to cancel our spring sectional. We had arranged with District 21 for a date for the tournament, but hadn't located a site, and, more importantly, no new sectional coordinator has been appointed to take over Mischel Postas's position. It seems we will have to put together a team to handle the responsibilities.

A website committee was formed. Our website, [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org), is sorely in need of an update, and you can expect to see a new one by the end of April. I say this as a member of the website committee, along with Lynn Bartz and Rick Jasper.

The search continues for an appropriate site to reopen the San Jose Bridge Center.

One thing the Unit Board has done is to name events at the Reno Nationals in memory of Unit members and players who have passed away recently, including the Loreta Flynn Memorial Monday Morning Side Pairs, the Carole Dietz Memorial Fast Pairs, the Neal Webb Memorial Bracketed Round Robin Teams, the Wendy Dewell of Silicon Valley 299er Pairs, and the Fran Dickman Memorial Top-Flight Pairs. The day of each event there was a write-up in the Daily Bulletin about the person honored. Even if you didn't attend the NABC, you can find links to all the Bulletins at <http://live.acbl.org/bulletins/NABC221>.

My friend and former partner Neal passed away unexpectedly after my last column was written. I heard about it from his frequent partner Annette Powers. For those who don't remember, Neal, Lynn Yokel, and I operated the Tuesday evening game at the San Jose Bridge Center, rotating as directors from February 2000 through September 2004. Neal and I dropped out of the rotation, and Lynn Yokel is still directing the Tuesday evening game, now online. Neal also served as Unit Treasurer from 1999 through 2005.

Michael Rosenberg (with partner Zachary Grossack) won the Mott-Smith Trophy as the players who earned the most masterpoints at the Reno Nationals, winning the Kay Platinum Pairs and with their teammates winning the Jacoby Open Swiss. Kevin Rosenberg's team placed 4th. In another national events, Wendy & David Fotland had a section top in the 0-2,500 pairs.

In regional events in Reno, Carolyn Drozdiak's Swiss team won its bracket. Roy Tsai had a section top in a gold rush pairs.

At a Goodwill dinner, Ray Yuenger was given District 21's Goodwill Member of the Year award.

In less pleasant news, the ACBL decided to allow optional masking in Reno. Almost daily starting Monday, the ACBL sent emails warning players that someone in their event had a positive Covid test. At least two unit members had positive tests. Both are on the mend, to my knowledge. I played for only four days. When I returned home, I learned one of my teammates for those four days had a positive test. Luckily, my home tests have been negative. I must say after a couple of years with little face-to-face bridge, it took me a while to get in the rhythm of keeping score and alerting partner's bids, not my own.

Before the Reno Nationals, other venues have resumed holding face-to-face tournaments. Lynn Shannon & John Miller won a pairs event at the Oregon Trail regional. They also won a two-session pairs event at the Santa Rosa/Petaluma sectional.

After Reno, John Hodges was first in a pairs event in the online Hollywood Magic regional.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Robert Pruitt (Club); Alicia Breyer (Sectional); Kumar Ramaiyer, Archana Rathnakar, Kathy Vita (Regional); Jan Pfiffner (NABC); Donghui Lu (Life); Paul Davis (Ruby); Ken Rosenfield (Gold).

My last report on Unit 507 was composed nine weeks ago. It remains the case that no new San Jose Bridge club has opened. We are negotiating with a possible church site, but the process has been slow. If the club reopens, it will probably start with one or two days a week, not a daily schedule as before.

The Unit Board continues to meet on a monthly basis. Three new members have been added to the Board, Bruce Luttrell, Michael Fleisher, and Betsy Wagner. Bruce has agreed to serve as our sectional coordinator. The Board now has a full complement of 12 directors. Half of those positions lapse every year. Everyone on the Board would like to remain. We hold elections in June when there are more nominees than open positions. Once again (as has been true for over a decade) we have no nominees apart from the existing Board members, so there is no occasion to hold an election.

In April, the Unit Board adopted Norman Marks' suggestions and established goals for the remainder of 2022. One of them is holding a fall sectional. Another is holding a face-to-face membership meeting and other face-to-face unit games. We are looking for locations and available dates. When events are scheduled, they will be publicized by email and on the website.

We now have a new Unit website at [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org), the same location as our old website. Some technical problems delayed opening the new site, but it is now live.

Our Unit members have had success at face-to-face tournaments. At the Sacramento Regional, a knockout team with Lynn Shannon & John Miller took first in the top bracket. Anne Wilson's team won in bracket two of a knockout event. Michael & Kevin Rosenberg's team prevailed in the top bracket of a round robin event. In pairs events, Richard Reitman & Stephen Tu won a top flight event. Roy Tsai & Li Zhang won a gold rush pairs event and had a section top in another gold rush event. H Paul Davis had a stratification top in the mid-flight pairs. John Stremel had a strat top in open pairs. Rich Reitman had a section top in a pairs event.

In sectionals before the Sacramento regional, Stephen Tu's Swiss team placed first in Almond Valley and he had a section top in a pairs game there. Andrew Sinclair's team was first in Marin. Bruce Luttrell had a sectional top in a pairs game in a Sacramento sectional.

In sectionals after the Sacramento regional, Kevin Rosenberg won the two-session pairs event in San Francisco. Yannie Zhao had a strat top in the same event. Stephen Tu's team won in the top Swiss bracket.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Kathleen Cole, Chelsea Verhasselt, Max Zhang (Junior); Yin Lin (Club); Li Zhang (Sectional); Gavin Neson, Manoj Thawani,

Brien Wilson, Michael Zheng (Regional); Carolyn Drozdiak, Andrew Sinclair (Bronze);  
Anne Wilson (Ruby).

My last column was composed seven weeks ago. We just held our second monthly Unit Board meeting since then. The Board decided to hold a combined Unit 507 membership meeting and unit game on Saturday, August 20 at the Campbell Community Center. The Bylaws require annual membership meetings. Due to the pandemic, we attempted to hold the last two meetings online via Zoom, but very few members turned out. We hope a free game will attract more members, although getting a quorum (15% of the membership) may not be a realistic expectation. To get the word out, each Board member (there are 12) agreed to call or email part of the membership. We have also sent out a group email via Pianola. If you are interested in playing, proof of vaccination will be required at the door and masking may be required depending on local transmission conditions or your opponent's request. For more details, check the latest newsletter on [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org).

The Unit membership is currently (August 2022) 537 members. When the County of Santa Clara first issued a shelter-in-place order on March 16, 2020, the Unit membership was 660, so there has been a steady decline during the COVID pandemic, with more Life Masters changing to unpaid status and more non-Life Masters changing to inactive status. That is understandable, considering the closure of the San Jose Bridge Center. We are still seeking a space to reopen, while aware that nearby clubs have a low face-to-face turnout.

Still some members have been active. Congratulations to our newest Masters: Kathleen Crowe, Madhu Moorthy, Russell Segal (Junior); Monica Bacon-Proctor (Regional); and Linda Rocha (Silver).

At the Nationals in Providence, Rhode Island, unfortunately a number of players caught COVID. Some unit members soldiered on. Michael Rosenberg's teams placed first in the Roth Open Swiss and tied for fifth in the Spingold KO Teams. Tsao-Tung Tsai placed first in the under 2500 Pairs. Stu Goodgold was second in the under 6000 Bruce Life Master Pairs. Pangjie Xu was sixth in the same event aided by a section top. Michael Bodell was fifth in the Wernher Open Pairs and had a section top in the event. Sathya Bettadapura had a section top in the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs.

In regional events at the NABC, Will Watson's bracketed team placed first. Rich Reitman was first in a fast open pairs event.

In a regional preceding the NABC, Tony Barre's team tied for first in their bracket in Waterloo, Iowa.

Kyra Helmbold's team was first in a Granite City sectional in Minnesota.

In the East Bay sectional, Kevin Rosenberg's team was first in the top bracket. John Stremel was first in his strat in a two-session pairs game. Kevin Rosenberg was

second overall in the same pairs game. Both Kevin and Bruce Luttrell had section tops in that game.

In the five-day Firecracker sectional, Will Watson & Eugene Hung won a two-session pairs game as did Frank Xie and Daren Kuo & Luen-Jyh Luo. Prevailing in single-session pairs games were Renee Cantu & Alicia Breyer, Kevin Rosenberg, Barbara Roupe, Melanie Kakalec, Jack Clinch, and Tom Rossi. Earning section tops in two-session games were Stu Goodgold & Ray Yuenger and Michael Fleisher. Sandra Erickson had a section top in a single-session game.

Several teams were first in their brackets, including teams with Michael Fleisher & Norman Marks, Andy Scott & Philip Freiberger, Frank Xie & Donghui Lu, Ron Baron & Ken Rosenfeld, and Michele Liu & Yannie Zhao. Arthur Zhou's Swiss team was first in its stratification.

The Unit Board has been planning a face-to-face holiday party game for Saturday November 19. We are also planning a fall sectional, probably on October 29 and 30, though we are still searching for a venue. (I just realized that there's just a space between "a venue" and an "avenue.")

If you are interested in seeing the minutes of the Unit Board meetings, I'm responsible as Secretary for taking the minutes and as an assistant webmaster for getting them posted on our website. Historically, I been lethargic about getting the minutes posted and I apologize to those who have missed them. I would like to explain that the minutes aren't approved by the Board until the monthly meeting after they are taken, so there is a built-in delay of one month to having approved minutes. If you are interested in a more current perspective on the Board's activities, you are welcome to attend our monthly meetings the second Tuesday evening of each month.

Hope to see you at our Unit game. Come early if you'd like to help set up the room.



I composed my last Unit 507 column nine weeks ago. The Unit Board has had two meetings since then. Our focus has been on planning our fall sectional, which is scheduled for October 29 and 30 in a new venue, the Palo Alto Bridge Club! The Board of that Unit has been kind enough to offer their facilities for our use. Click [here](#) to see our flyer, which is on our [website](#).

Another topic of concern to the Board has been disposing of the contents of the former San Jose Bridge Center, which have been in commercial storage since the start of the pandemic. It has become apparent to the Board and our local directors that there currently isn't enough player interest to try to open a bridge club offering two games most days like we had before COVID. So we no longer need tables and chairs that don't fold. I have been overseeing the disposal efforts, making 20-minute trips to the storage unit as needed. The plan is to be out of the storage unit by the end of this month, October. If there is an item that you remember fondly and want from the Bridge Center, like a large clock or a small rolling shelf, let me know promptly. My contact information is on the website.

The Unit has also been planning a face-to-face holiday party and unit game on Saturday, November 19, in the Roosevelt Room of the Campbell Community Center. In a break from tradition, we are going to be offering a potluck lunch instead of dinner and the game will be after lunch. More details will be provided in a flyer on the website.

As face-to-face tournaments are resuming, our Unit members have been prevailing in some events. In the All-Western Regional, Richard Reitman placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the premier two-day Open Pairs Championships, while Jason Chui placed 5<sup>th</sup>, Kevin Rosenberg placed 6<sup>th</sup>, and Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean placed 9<sup>th</sup>. In other pair events at that regional, Robert Brunkhorst won a Gold Rush event and had a section top in a mid-flight event. Jung Hu had a section top in the same mid-flight event. Earning stratification tops in open events were Frank Xie, Jung Hu (twice), and Aravind Alwan. John Stremel had a strat top in a mid-flight pairs event. Roy Tsai & Li Zhang had a strat top in a Gold Rush event. Returning to section tops, Christy Hartsell had a section top in a mid-flight event. Rich Reitman & Stephen Tu had a section top in an open event and were just 1.5 masterpoints out of first overall. They also had a section top in another open event. Daren Kuo & Luen-Jyh Luo had a section top in an open event.

In team events at the All-Western Regional, first in their strats or knockout brackets were teams including: Joel Koransky & Ken Rosenfeld; Terry Ahern, Linda Rocha, & Anne Wilson; Uresh Vahalia; Andrew Sinclair (twice); Floyd McWilliams & Joel Singer; Henry Zhang; Frank Xie, Donghui Lu, & Jung Hu; John & Ann Wainright, Sharon Krawetz, & Shirely Foreman. A team with Frank Xie & Michele Liu tied for first.

Heading north to the Oregon Coast Regional, Michael Rosenberg's Swiss team won an event.

Vilas Namjoshi & Anne Wilson had a section top in a mid-flight pairs event in the online Fall into Bridge Regional.

Prior to the All-Western, a team with Frank Xie, Donghui Lu, & Pangjie Xu won the top Swiss bracket at the San Mateo sectional. Andrew Sinclair had a strat top in a pairs event.

Lynn Shannon & John Miller took first in the open pairs at the Diablo Valley sectional. A Swiss team with Eugene Hung & Will Watson took first the next day of the sectional.

While I do have partial results from an ongoing Palo Alto sectional, I'll report them all at once in my next column.

On August 20, Unit 507 held a unit game that was free to Unit members. 21 tables of players turned out, 14 in the stratified open game and 7 in the limited game. Colin Helmsley & Anne Dudman were first overall, with Anne Wilson & Vilas Namjoshi first in the other direction. First in the C strat was Carolyn Drozdiak & John Stremel. Gene Caselli & Ellen Railton won in all strats of the limited game. It was nice to see so many members for the first time since March 2020.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Liang Dong, Jian Fang (Junior); Rajeev Gupta (Sectional); Yannie Zhao (Regional); Kumar Ramaiyer (NABC); Sandra Erickson (Advanced NABC); Susan Dietz (Bronze); Dave Hyams (Silver); Ron Baron (Ruby); Jason Chui, Frank Xie (Gold); Mansoor Gowani (Sapphire); and Erin Gove, Lynn Shannon (Diamond).

I composed my last unit column a little over eight weeks ago. There has been only one monthly unit board meeting in that time period, with the next scheduled in a couple of days.

There have been encouraging developments involving the return of face-to-face bridge to Santa Clara County.

On October 29 and 30, Unit 507 held a sectional at the site of the Palo Alto Bridge Club, courtesy of the Unit 503 Board. The results are reported below.

On November 19, Unit 507 held a holiday party with the Unit supplying some (slightly dry) turkey and members contributing tasty potluck dishes and desserts. There were 17 tables of players in the open stratified section and 4 tables in the limited pairs. In the open game, Marcia & Bob Dean were first overall, with Diane & Lynn Shannon first in the other direction. Rakesh & Rajeev Gupta were first in the B and C stratifications. In the limited game Pamela Meckenstock & Judy MacArthur placed first. It was an enjoyable time. If we want such games to pay for themselves, we'll have to increase the table fees.

On December 7, Lynn Yokel held a test run of a bridge club game in a room at the United Methodist Church in Campbell. Due to the room size, attendance was limited to ten tables of players who had preregistered online. It was a full house. Anne Dudman & Colin Hemsley were first overall, with Lynn Bartz & Ken Imboden first in the other direction. The top four pairs were within one matchpoint of each other. A new section was created on the [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org) website to list the results of face-to-face games.

The Silicon Valley sectional at the end of October was bookended by two Palo Alto sectionals (and other tournaments). In the first PABC sectional, Michael & Kevin Rosenberg won a two-session open pairs game. Earning section tops in the same event were Rich Reitman, Stu Goodgold & Ray Yuenger, and Cadir Lee. Xiaoling Lai & Li Zhang won a 499ers game. Manoj Thawani & Rajeev Gupta were first in a side pairs game. Lynn Shannon & John Miller were on the first-place Swiss team.

In a regional at sea in October, Michael Fleisher placed first in two open stratified pairs events and one Swiss teams event.

At the Santa Cruz sectional, Betsy Wagner & Jan Pfiffner won an I/N pairs event.

At the Silicon Valley sectional, Kevin Rosenberg won the two-session pairs event. Ken Rosenfeld and Michele Liu each had stratification tops in the same event. Pamela Meckenstock & Barbara Roupe were first in a 499er event. Karen Kulander won a side pairs event. Lynn Shannon & John Miller were on the winning Swiss team.

At the second Palo Alto sectional, Arif Janjua, Clark Millikan & Floyd McWilliams were on the first-place Swiss team. Bharat Kamdar won one 499er pairs event and Bill Roman & Monica Bacon-Proctor won another one. Paul Nelson & Norman Marks had a section top in a two-session open pairs event. Daren Kuo & Luen-Jyh Luo won a side pairs game.

At the Las Vegas regional, Bruce Luttrell's team won one round robin, Jim Liu's team won another round robin, and Kevin Rosenberg's team won a third.

At the East Bay sectional, Arif Janjua won a two-session pairs event. A team with Aravin Alwan & Pradeep Verma prevailed in their bracket.

Kevin Rosenberg had a spectacular showing at the fall NABC in Phoenix. He was on the winning team of the Soloway Knockout and placed second in the Reisinger Board-a-Match. Michael Rosenberg was on the third place Reisinger team. Lynn Shannon & John Miller were tenth in the Nail Life Master pairs. Frank Xie's team won the under 10,000 NABC Swiss and he placed sixth in the under 6,000 Blue Ribbon pairs.

In regional pairs events at the NABC, Michael Fleisher & Norman Marks won a two-session fast pairs event. Gang Zhao had a stratification top in a two-session pairs event. Michele Liu had a section top in a mid-flight pairs event. In team events, Vilas Namjoshi & Anne Wilson's team prevailed in their bracket.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Nikolay Mechev, Carol Reid (Junior); Renee Cantu (Sectional); Ramesh Bhambhra (Life and Bronze); Ed Logg (Silver); Arij Janjua (Ruby).

Looking into the new year, I believe the plan is to reopen the club at the United Methodist Church the third week of January. Lynn Yokel will be providing notice to players and probably requesting reservations again.

I hope you've survived 2022 with your health intact.