

SILICON VALLEY UNIT NEWS

April 2026



If you wanted to see photos from the Easter Bunnies and Bonnets Parade in Campbell, [look here](#). It's just I, Unit 507 President, [Mich Ravera](#). This E-mail is about bridge.

Unit 507's Silicon Valley Spring Forward Sectional was held March 27-28. [Tournament chair Linda Rocha](#) thanks volunteers Annette Powers, Judy Gouvea, Margareta Hodzic, Jan Pfiffner, Kathy Vita, Laurie Walters and Kathy and Rick Jasper. The whole Unit owes these people as well as Linda a big debt of gratitude.

Unit 507 members who won events or earned section tops include:

- Silver Rush Pairs Overall Winners: Jane Michaels and Henry Koransky
- Pairs Section Tops: David Sisson, Norman Marks, Michael Fleisher, Elenalani Lam, Mich Ravera, Monica Bacon-Proctor, Louise Kirkbride, Craig Hom, Frank Xie, Surendra Adodra, Stuart Whannel, Flora Ding, and Kapil Bhalla
- Sriram Ganesan was on a winning Team

Our Unit's Annual Meeting, potluck, and game is scheduled for June 20 at the Campbell United Methodist Church. [Please register](#) by June 15 so we can plan the BBQ order and table setup.

The registration page also includes a section to note any side dish, dessert, or drink you plan to bring, to indicate if you need a partner, and to specify whether you'd like to participate in a limited event.

In late April and early May every year, the Unit accepts nominations for the Unit Board. If you would like to become a Unit Board member or have a nominee in mind, contact [Ray Yuenger](#), [our Unit Secretary](#) **by noon on May 15**, when nominations close. Eligibility and willingness to serve will both be verified. Don't be shy! If we end up with more nominations than we have available Board positions, we will hold an election during late May and early June and the winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Our regular monthly Unit 507 Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Most of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you [contact me](#), I'll send you an invitation and a meeting packet on the Sunday before the meeting. If you're considering joining the board, you may want to sit in on a meeting.

In other Tournament news:

At the District 21 GNT B-flight Finals held through March 22:

- Peng Cheng, Xiaoyu Cheng, Michele Liu, and Yin Lin were District Champions.

At the San Diego Regional held March 23-29:

- Avi Mukherjee won multiple Section Tops.

At the Tucson Winter Regional held April 6-12:

- John Miller and Lynn Shannon were on multiple winning Teams.

At the San Mateo Spring Non-Life Master Sectional Held April 18-19

- Jane Michaels and Henry Koransky were Pairs winners.

The Unit offers regular club games at the Campbell United Methodist Church. There are also regular games at The Villages. Both require advanced registration. For details, visit [Unit 507's home page](#). You'll also find information there on teacher questions, mentoring, results, and nearby games.

We welcome Junior Master Gigi Chu, and member Yan Yan Lui who joins us from the Austin area. We also bid a sad good-bye to Don Laucella who recently died.

We congratulate these advancing members:

Sectional Master	Louise Kirkbride
Advanced NABC Master	Pat Jeffries
Bronze Life Master (pictured at right)	Pamela Meckenstock



Linguists often say that countability is a trait haphazardly assigned to English nouns, mainly to separate native speakers from non-native ones. It seems to many that in bridge, masterpoints are similarly mysterious. The ACBL Masterpoint Handbook explains that the awards are determined by about five main factors: 1) the prestige of the event, 2) the size of the event, 3) the strength of the field, 4) restrictions to the participants, and 5) the length of the event. All five factors are multiplied together to determine the first-place award. Lower awards are certain fractions of that amount. As to the "prestige" factor, think of a club game as a 2.5 rating (this isn't as exact as the others), a club championship as 4.0, a Unit championship as 7, a sectional as 10, a regional as 14, and a national event as 22.5. Bracketed events depend upon the strength of the field and are normally less than 1.0 and so reduce the first-place award. Restrictions on who can play, limits to masterpoints, and shorter sessions or matches also cause reductions. Event size (other than regular club games) gives one award factor for the first eight tables and then roughly the same for the next 18, basically topping out when they reach 60 tables. And, yes, you do get 50% larger awards for playing a 27-board session than you do for 18 boards. And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!

