

# SILICON VALLEY UNIT NEWS

February 2026



If you wanted to read about [Prince's Legendary Super Bowl Halftime show from 2007](#), this the wrong e-mail. This e-mail is about Bridge. It's just I, Unit 507 President, [Mich Ravera](#).

Unit 507's Silicon Valley Spring Forward Sectional is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28 at the [PABC](#). [Here is the flyer](#). We have a Special 0-99 game on Saturday Morning. If you want to help contact [tournament chair Linda Rocha](#).

If you have any questions, especially about hands from the Wednesday game, use our website's new "Ask a Teacher" feature. In order to join our list of volunteers other than just at the Sectional, contact [me](#).

The Unit offers regular club games at the Campbell UMC and the Villages. For details, see [Unit 507's home page](#). A Unit Championship is coming up February 18 at the [Campbell United Methodist Church](#).

At the Hawaii Regional held January 26-February 1:

- Gold Rush Pairs winners included Kathy Vita and Jan Piffner

At the Livermore Valley Sectional held January 31 through February 1:

- Pairs Winners included Kapil Bhalla with a section top going to Li Zhang
- Team Winners included Xin Ge

At the District 21 Grand National Team Finals:

- In the Championship Flight: John Miller and Lynn Shannon were semi-finalists
- In the C flight: Shailesh Sampat, Henry Zhang, and Milind Girkar were on the winning team.

If you would like to join a Mentor Chain, check out our [Mentorship Program](#). Preference is given to Unit 507 members, but we'll try to help, especially if you play in a Silicon Valley club.

We welcome Barbara Shukov who joins us from a nearby Unit.

We congratulate Junior Masters Mihran Dars, Ting Chun Huang, Joan Pinder, Navdar Sever, Thyag Thyagarajan, and Joyce Tsai, as well as the following advancing members:

Club Masters

Regional Masters

NABC Master

**Ruby Life Masters**

**Gold Life Masters**

**Sapphire Life Master**

Cynthia Bitner, Ramesh Gupta, Frank Tiernan, and  
Bradley Whitaker

Frank Ammon and Kapil Bhalla

Jane Michaels

Jeffrey Pugh, Jennifer Stern, and John Wachsman

Mark Pensler and Ming Su

Ken Imboden



**Lynn Shannon (L), Jennifer Stern & Jeffrey Pugh, and Mark Pensler (R)**

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and finding teachers and lessons, or to become a club director [check out our website](#).

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, March 10, 2026. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you [contact me](#), I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet a day or two ahead of the meeting. At the January meeting, the Board accepted the Unit's year-end financial report. If you would like to inspect it, contact me.

In my role as a substitute teacher, I often get to read my share of what I call "whimsical wall wisdom." Those are the small posters that teachers put in places near classroom supplies, so that students might have something to read while sharpening their pencils or securing some scratch paper or marker pens. The other day I read one that began, "We learn about 10% percent of what we hear . . ." Anyway, more about that later. So, what is the best way to improve your game? Should you learn more about declarer play, perhaps squeezes or suit combinations? Should you learn some new conventions, perhaps more transfers, maybe asking bids, 11-way Stayman, or the three-way negative? Well, the last line on that pearl of wisdom was ". . . and about 95% of what we teach others." Maybe you can improve your game by either teaching the game or, more to the point, by mentoring a player who wants to improve. If you believe the wall wisdom, it's not just rewarding to "give back" to the game that has given you joy or the joy that you see that you give to others, but, maybe it will improve your game! [Check out our mentor program to help](#). The game that you improve may well be your own! And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!