

Hello! It's I, Mich Ravera, Unit 507 President, again.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is held every month on the second Tuesday at 5:30 PM. If you want to attend, almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, contact me at michravera@yahoo.com in time to matter and I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting. We have a couple of vacant spots on the Board.

The Unit Board has approved a live face-to-face Unit Championship which will likely have to wait a few weeks for people to regain their courage to play in person. However, this week's on-line game on Tuesday Night, January 18, is **DOUBLE SILVER POINTS**.

Those who want live face-to-face Bridge to resume on a regular basis in the Silicon Valley are still working toward how we might do that. A framework and preconditions have been agreed. Now, we just need for the world and local events to fulfill those conditions.

While everyone else was settled down for a long winter's nap, Pangjie Xu was promoted to Bronze Life Master. Congratulations!

It is with great sadness that I note that Grand Life Master Fran Dickman died this past week. Fran was everything that a Bridge Player, and for that matter, a human being, should be. I am honored to have played in the club where she played, but barely feel competent to have done so.

At the moment, the Reno North American Bridge Championships are all set to go. Several events have been or will be named for, or in memory of, Silicon Valley players whom we have recently lost. My understanding is that there will be no Championship Events in the evening, but there will be some evening games. You can see the flyer at <https://d21acbl.org/event/2203001/>. The ACBL makes decisions on the 15th of each month for tournaments to be held the next month, so watch your e-mail for announcements.

If you are having a dry January, I offer this sobering thought: You are halfway through. We've already burned though 4% of 2022. See you at the tables-- either online or face-to-face.

Hello Again! Mich Ravera, Unit 507 President, here.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Due to other ACBL meetings, it will next be held on the first Tuesday, March 1. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, contact me at michravaera@yahoo.com in time to matter and I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting. We have a couple of vacant spots on the Board, so, if you are interested in molding the future of bridge in Silicon Valley, tell us. In addition to having a couple more perspectives to aid in decisions, in particular, we are looking for a Sectional Tournament Coordinator. You don't have to be a Board Member to do the job, but the decisions about holding Sectionals are among the most important decisions that the Unit makes.

If you are able to summon the courage to play live face-to-face bridge, our neighboring Unit is holding a Sectional for Non-Life Masters with less than 750 masterpoints this weekend in Mountain View. Advance registration is required. This tournament consists of all pairs events.

We are still working out how to resume face-to-face bridge on a regular basis in Silicon Valley. Check this space and other announcements for details regarding a Spring Forward Silicon Valley Sectional Tournament as well as club play.

I am happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Li Zhang achieved Club Master; Kumar Ramaiyer advanced to Sectional Master; Susan Dietz achieved the honor of Life Master; and John Stremel was promoted to Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all!

It is with great sadness that I note club director and player Carole Dietz died this past week.

The Reno North American Bridge Championships are set to go. Several events have been or will be named for, or in memory of, Silicon Valley players whom we have recently lost. Contrary to what I've said before, it appears that there will be Championship Events in the evening. My reading of the minutes of the ACBL Board is that this may be one of the last Nationals for which this is true. You can see the flyer at <https://d21acbl.org/event/2203001/>. The ACBL makes decisions on the 15th of each month for tournaments to be held the next month, so watch your email for announcements.

As I write this, it's Valentine's Day, a day that the scholars of the Roman Catholic Church eliminated from their calendar due to their inability to verify anything about either of the people who were so named. They instituted instead "Cyril's Day," honoring the purported inventor of the alphabet used in much of Eastern Europe. So, while we may not know the

truth of why we exchange greetings with those whom we hold dear, it is all together fitting that we exchange written greetings on this day. I'll see you at the tables, with your newly written Convention Card, not in Cyrillic, but please do use suit symbols!

Jeff Hack, occasional Unit Newsletter "Hacking It" author, offers the following for your consideration:

"A very long time ago I tried online bridge and I didn't like it. Then the pandemic came. After waiting six months without bridge, I tried BBO. With a lot of help from Fern, a BBO expert, I played a limited schedule.

"We were almost ready for face-to-face when Omicron appeared. I would like to commend our Board for getting us out of our Bascom contract fast and not starting again until we are ready. To me the biggest advantage of online play is the cost. Reverse \$2.29 and \$14 and face-to-face wins easily. The biggest reason to play in person is the sociability. Bridge was teetering even before the pandemic. Young people are into their online games. Hopefully, bridge will get a boost of young people to replace the older generation.

"This is my story. I'm sure many of you have pandemic bridge stories. Let Mich know."

Hello Again! Mich Ravera, Unit 507 President, here.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next be held on Tuesday, April 12th. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com in time to matter, I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting. We have a couple of vacant spots on the Board, so, if you are interested in molding the future of Bridge in the Silicon Valley, tell us. In addition to having a couple more perspectives to aid in decisions, in particular, we are looking for a Sectional Tournament Coordinator. You don't have to be a Board Member to take the job, but the decisions about holding Sectionals are among the most important decisions that the Unit makes.

Partly due to the vacancy in the position of Sectional Coordinator, we have decided not to hold our Spring Sectional, but to focus on planning our Fall Sectional We are still working out how to resume face-to-face Bridge on a regular basis in Silicon Valley. Check this space and other announcements as to live club play.

I am happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Robert Pruitt achieved Club Master; Joan Albers advanced to Sectional Master; Archana Rathnakar and Kathy Vita were named Regional Masters; Jan Pfiffner achieved the rank of NABC Master; and Paul Davis was promoted to Ruby Life Master. Congratulations to all!

It is with beyond sadness that I note that former Club Director, Unit Treasurer, and player Neal Webb and player Bud Biswas died recently.

The Reno North American Bridge Championships are set to start in three days! Several events have been or will be named for, or in memory of, Silicon Valley players whom we have recently lost. These include Wendy Dewell, Fran Dickman, Carole Dietz, Loreta Flynn, Mindy Foos, and Neal Webb. Contrary to what I've said before, it appears that there will be Championship Events in the evening. My reading of the minutes of the ACBL Board is that this may be one of the last Nationals at which this is true. You can see the flyer at <https://d21acbl.org/event/2203001/> The ACBL makes decisions on the 15th of each month for tournaments to be held the next month, so watch your email for announcements.

An ACBL committee has revamped the standard Convention Card, and the new format is discussed in the most recent Bridge Bulletin. The redesigned card will take several months to replace the old one, and in the meantime, either format is acceptable.

That's quite a lot for this month. I'll see you at the tables!

Hello, and greetings for the Spring season! Mich Ravera, Unit 507 President.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, but we have a special meeting to discuss goals and By-laws scheduled for April 26. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com in time to matter, I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting. We still have a vacant spot on the Board, so, if you are interested in molding the future of Bridge in the Silicon Valley, tell us. We can use an additional perspective to aid in our decisions. Why not YOURS??!!

At our last meeting, we managed to recruit Bruce Luttrell as Sectional Tournament Coordinator and Unit Board Member and added Board Member Michael Fleisher. With Bruce's addition, we are on track to hold our Fall Back Sectional in October. If you just can't wait to play in a face-to-face Unit Championship game, Unit 524 holds a Unit Championship in Morgan Hill every month. The next one is Sunday, April 24 (flyer attached).

We are still working out how to resume face-to-face Bridge on a regular basis in Silicon Valley. The good news is that, thanks to the search efforts of Kathy Jasper and others, we may have found a place to hold a weekly daytime game. Check this space and other announcements.

I am happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Alicia Breyer advanced to Sectional Master; Kumar Ramaiyer was named Regional Master; Donghui Lu achieved the rank of Life Master; and Ken Rosenfeld was promoted to Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all!

I have in my possession and have signed the Ace of Clubs award certificates for 2021. They will be mailed to the winners this week. The winners are: Over 10000, Diane Shannon; 7500-10000, Bill Langlois; 5000-7500, Bud Biswas*; 3500-5000, Stu Goodgold; 2500-3500, Paul Nelson; 1500-2500, Ken Imboden; 1000-1500, Preston Kauk; 500-1000, John Stremel; 300-500, Joanne Cornbleet; 200-300, Linda Kenigsberg; 100-200, Betsy Wagner; 50-100, Arancha Rathnakar; 20-50, Kathy Vita; 5-20, Joan Albers; and introducing 0-5, Fadi Maamari. More Congratulations!

* Bud Biswas died in 2022.

Speaking of websites, we are in the process of updating our website. It will remain at the same URL: <http://www.sjbridge.org>.

The Reno North American Bridge Championships took place last month. If you want to see what some people said about it, take a look at this BridgeWinners thread <http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/reno-postmortem-the-good-the-bad-and-the-smoky>.

The Sacramento Regional is scheduled for next month. Its flyer is here: <https://web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2022/06/2206104.pdf> Since it is past the ACBL's announcement deadline, the tournament is a GO!

That's quite a lot for this month. I'll see you at the tables, with your new-style Convention Card whose format is discussed in the most recent Bridge Bulletin.

Hello! Mich Ravera, Unit 507 President, here.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com in time to matter, I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting.

At our last meeting we added Betsy Wagner to the Unit Board, so we now have a full complement of 12 Board Members. At a special meeting, we agreed upon our Unit's goals for the remainder of the year. Those goals include holding a Sectional and at least two Unit Championships, all face-to-face. A full list can be found in the minutes for the April Board meetings.

Since it is May, we are looking for candidates for the Unit Board. There are six vacancies, and each incumbent has expressed an interest in continuing to serve. If we get more candidates that we have vacancies, we will hold an election in June. So, if you are interested in molding the future of Bridge in the Silicon Valley, tell us, specifically Ray Yuenger, rayyuenger@gmail.com, our Unit Secretary. We can use an additional perspective to aid in our decisions. Why not YOURS??!!

We are still working out how to resume face-to-face Bridge on a regular basis in Silicon Valley as it has, to a certain extent, in our nearby Units. The good news is that, thanks to the search efforts of Kathy Jasper and others, we may have found a place to hold a weekly daytime game. Check this space and sjbridge.org for the latest news.

I am happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Kathleen Cole and Chelsea Verhasselt have been welcomed as Junior Masters; Gavin Nesom, Manoj Thawani, and Michael Zheng advanced to Regional Master; and Carolyn Drozdiak and Andrew J Sinclair achieved the rank of Bronze Life Master. Congratulations to all!

I am unhappy to announce that Norma Black, our frequent nighttime fill in player died recently.

Speaking of websites, we are in the process of updating and relocating our website. Once we overcome some technical difficulties, you will find it at the same url as provided above.

The Sacramento Regional is scheduled for the end of this month. Its flyer is here: <https://web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2022/06/2206104.pdf>

That's what I know this month. I'll see you at the tables, with your new-style Convention Card. Remember to use suit symbols!

Hello! Mich Ravera, ACBL Unit 507 President, here.

We have successfully relocated the Silicon Valley Bridge website! Check it out the new and improved version at:
<http://www.sjbridge.org>

Note the "Online Club Game Schedule," where club games are listed and some have been identified as NAP qualifiers, beginning with the one tonight. Note that the District 21 board voted to eliminate the unit-level qualifying requirement again this year. So if you qualify in one of the many club-level NAP games, you will be eligible to play in the district finals. No stressful unit playoffs!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the new website, please contact one of the unit board members.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com in time to matter, I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting. At our last meeting, the board voted on some issues that hopefully matter to you; I'll get to those in just a bit.

No candidates who weren't already on the Unit Board emerged before the last Unit Board meeting. So, our current Board members, whether elected or appointed, and whose terms were up for election have been elected to new terms. Congratulations to Lynn Bartz, Judy Fisher, Stu Goodgold, Doug Hong, Norman Marks, and Betsey Wagner.

We are still working out how to resume face-to-face Bridge on a regular basis in Silicon Valley, but the Unit Board has voted to schedule face-to-face games as follows (*ALL TENTATIVE*):

Annual Unit Membership Meeting Game in August (8/13, if possible)

Sectional Tournament in October (10/29-30, if possible)

Holiday Party Unit Game in November (11/19, if possible)

If we have our way, the Unit games will be held on Saturday with potluck food just after noon at the United Church of Christ on Campbell Ave. The Sectional will also be held there. Of course, everything is subject to location availability and local health restrictions, so check this space, the website, and other announcements for updates as specifics emerge.

I am sorry to announce that Minette Diamond died recently.

I am happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Max Zhang has been welcomed as a Junior Master; Yin Lin joined the ranks of Club Master; Li Zhang was promoted to Sectional Master; Brian Wilson advanced to Regional Master; and Anne Wilson achieved the rank of Bronze Life Master. Congratulations to all!

Our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details.

The Providence NABC is scheduled for July 14-24. Its information is here:
<https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/providence-nabc/>

The Santa Clara Regional is scheduled for August 30-September 5. Its flyer is here: <https://d21acbl.org/event/2209105/>

I'll see you at the tables, with your new-style Convention Card. Remember to use suit symbols!

Hello! Mich Ravera, ACBL Unit 507 President, here.

At the most recent Unit Board meeting, we scheduled a face-to-face Annual Membership Meeting and Free Unit Game to be held on Saturday, August 20, in the Roosevelt Room of the Campbell Community Center at 1:00 PM. Yes, you, being a Unit 507 member, are invited! Unit Board members volunteered to get the word out to Unit members by either sending you a personal E-mail or calling you about the game. We'd really like to know if you are coming and if you need a partner, so either respond to the Board Member who tried to contact you or any other board member (contact info on our [website](#)). Unit non-members can play in the game for \$10. Proof of vaccination will be required in order to play. If you'd like to help with setting up the room, please show up 30 minutes early. We'd really appreciate it!

We also re-elected our Unit's Officers -- President Mich Ravera; Vice-President Mischel Postas; Secretary Ray Yuenger; Treasurer Karen O'Connell -- to continue serving in their positions.

Save the last weekend of October (29-30) for our fall Sectional and the Saturday before Thanksgiving for our Holiday Party. More specific details and more Unit games will be forthcoming when determined.

I am unhappy to announce that Don Wolfe died recently.

I am happy that I need to apologize to Anne Wilson! She recently achieved the rank of RUBY LIFE MASTER. I also apologize to anyone who tried to recruit her for their Gold Rush or Micro-Spingold team. I'm happy as well to announce that we have been officially notified that Kathleen Crowe has been welcomed as a Junior Master; Monica Bacon-Proctor advanced to Regional Master; and Linda Rocha achieved the rank of Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all!

The Providence NABC is in progress now until July 24. Its information is here:

<https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/providence-nabc/>

San Mateo has an upcoming Sectional August 13-14. You can find a link to their flyer on our website, Sjbridge.org.

Our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details.

The Santa Clara Regional is scheduled for August 30-September 5. Its flyer is here: <https://d21acbl.org/event/2209105/>.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com in time to matter, I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Unit Game next month!

Hello! Mich Ravera, ACBL Unit 507 President, here.

Can I get you excited about **FREE FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE in the Silicon Valley**? All right then, how about, if we all meet for an annual Unit Membership Meeting and a game in the Roosevelt Room at the Campbell Community Center this Saturday, August 20, at 1PM? What's the catch? Well, there are four:

1. You will have to listen to me jabber for a minute or two.
2. You need to be a Unit 507 Member in order to play for free.
3. You need to let us know that you are coming if you want hydration provided.
4. You need to comply with ACBL and Santa Clara County COVID protocols.

You can sort of get around the first trouble by turning up at the last minute, but please don't do that. It will make your partner nervous!

If you are not a Unit 507 member, you can still play (with a Unit 507 partner or someone else), but it will cost you \$10.

We are trying to make a method of preventing dehydration available, so it will help us a lot if you tell us that you are coming.

If you need a partner, you can post a request at <https://app.pianola.net/PartnerFinder> or just contact us and we'll do our best! If you haven't logged into Pianola before, you'll need to do that to access the Partner Finder component. All the Unit Board members have been helping to compile the list of attendees. It will be easiest if you contact the Board member who contacted you. If no one got in touch with you, try me at michravera@yahoo.com or 510-410-0371 or respond to this e-mail – and don't let up until someone says, "Got it!" At last count we had about 50 people signed up. Let's see if we can get up to 100! If there is sufficient attendance, we will have a separate section for those people who haven't yet won a lot of masterpoints.

I wish that there were a good way of getting around the fourth gotcha, but just in case, bring your vax card as well as your convention card and be ready to wear a mask, if that is required by community transmission levels or your opponent.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held via Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM, next on Tuesday, September 13. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation, usually a day or two ahead of time. At the most recent Unit Board meeting, we voted to try to go ahead with our October Sectional and to have our holiday party on Saturday November 19, once again at 1PM. Details will follow in future messages and on the sjbridge.org web site. So stay informed!

Please join me in welcoming new member Gary Moore to Unit 507! I'm also happy as to announce that we have been officially notified that Madhu Moorthy and Russell Segal have been welcomed as Junior Masters. Congratulations to both of them!

Our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details. This message usually comes out at just exactly the wrong time each month, so think of this as an early reminder for next month. Our website provides links to the websites of nearby units if you are looking to find a face-to-face bridge game. Santa Cruz has been featuring some daytime games with special lunches.

The Santa Clara Regional is scheduled for August 30-September 5. Its flyer is here: <https://d21acbl.org/event/2209105/>

The Silicon Valley "Fall Back" Sectional is currently scheduled for October 29-30. I hope to have much more to tell you about it next month.

Eric Kokish explains that "full and adequate disclosure" doesn't mean that you must tell opponents everything that you know about your system. Rather, you must tell them everything that you would want to know about theirs. Although I would never expect the **name** of a convention to be adequate disclosure, several times during a recent tournament I was **asked** for a convention's name. In most cases, the name was a familiar one that my partner and I played in a different context than opponents were accustomed to. So, before you decide to learn any new conventions, maybe you want to see if there are new situations to apply those that you already know.

I'll see you at the tables, hopefully at the Unit Game, and hear your full and adequate disclosure.

Mich

Hello! Mich Ravera, ACBL Unit 507 President, here.

Well, over 80 people got excited about **FREE FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE in the Silicon Valley** at our recent member appreciation game. Colin Hemsley and Anne Dudman won it all. Anne Wilson and Vilas Namjoshi had a double section top. Carolyn Drozdiak and John Stremel weren't far behind them. Pat Wong and Robert Allen also had a section top. Newcomers Gene Caselli and Ellen Railton had a triple section top in the limited section. If they keep that up, they won't be able to play in the limited section for long! In their first time playing organized face-to-face bridge, Gary Levison and Rich Lordan came away with some masterpoints. To say the least, I was encouraged by the turnout. I'm hoping for a better turnout still at our upcoming Sectional and our holiday party.

One of our Past Presidents, Dan Turkus, would often give blanket congratulations to all those who won something at the local regionals such as the All-Western Regional recently completed in Santa Clara. Allow me to be more specific. A number of our Unit members were first in their stratifications in the latest All-Western Regional. On first place teams in their brackets and stratifications were Joel Koransky & Ken Rosenfeld; Terry Ahern, Linda Rocha, and Anne Wilson; Uresh Valhalia; Andrew Sinclair; Floyd McWilliams & Joel Singer; Henry Zhang; Frank Xie, Donghui Lu, & Jung Hu; John & Ann Wainwright; Sharon Krawetz, & Shirley Foreman; and Frank Xie & Michele Liu. Leading their strats in two-session pair events were Jung Hu & Qing Lu (twice); Robert Brunkhorst; Frank Xie; Roy Tsai & Li Zhang; and Aravind Alwan. Members also had success in side pair games.

Our Silicon Valley Fall Back Sectional will be held on the last weekend of October 29-30 at the PABC in Mountain View. Check out our new flyer at [2210391.pdf \(acbl.org\)](#).

A few weeks before that you can try to score your **gold** or pad your **gold** total at the [Reno/Sparks Regional – ACBL District 21 \(d21acbl.org\)](#) beginning on October 3.

After a couple years of absence, we are planning our holiday party for Saturday, November 19 at 1 PM in the Roosevelt Room at the Campbell Community Center. If things go well, it might even be a potluck! Details will follow in future messages and on the Silicon Valley Bridge web site [Home \(sjbridge.org\)](#). So stay informed! Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM, next on Tuesday, October 11. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation, usually a day or two ahead of time.

Please join me in welcoming new members Yan Deng and Allison Draper to Unit 507! I'm also happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Jian Fang has been welcomed as a Junior Master; Ron Baron has been promoted to Ruby Life Master; Mansoor Gowani achieved the rank of Sapphire Life Master; and Erin Gove and Lynn Shannon became Diamond Life Masters. Congratulations to all!

Our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details. This message usually comes out at just exactly the wrong time each month, so think of this as an early reminder for next month.

Jeff Roman, to whom you should listen, if he ever is a speaker at a tournament, says that he has a test for whether to adopt a convention: Does it solve a real problem that you actually and frequently have? Can you spare the natural meaning of the call? Will you remember it when it comes up? With that in mind, I will mention that, at a recent tournament, I was reminded that the question "Do you play transfers?" means something quite different depending upon whether you are asking someone who has 40 masterpoints as opposed to someone who has 4000. If enough people ask, I'll elaborate in a later message.

I'll see you at the tables, hopefully at our Sectional, needing neither a Blitz nor a Plague to qualify!

Hello! It's Lo Mullenix, ACBL Unit 507 President, (better known as "Mich Ravera") here.

Are you ready for our Silicon Valley Fall Back Sectional? You are?! Well, it's less than two weeks away, October 29-30 at the PABC in Mountain View. Check out our flyer at [2210391.pdf \(acbl.org\)](#) . Bring Snacks, if you can!

At the Reno Regional, Betsy Wagner won a Side Pairs and Mansoor Gowani won a two-session Open Pairs. Congratulations to both!

After a couple years of absence, we are planning our holiday party for Saturday November 19 at 1PM in the Roosevelt Room at the Campbell Community Center. The Unit will provide Turkey and some other meats, but the rest will be potluck. In order to see what everyone else is bringing, so that you can either decide to try to do it better or try to be unique, there is a sign-up spreadsheet at <https://bit.ly/3yOQ2c6> . Yeah, yeah, yeah, there's a \$10 table fee. You may find out more at Silicon Valley Bridge web site (sjbridge.org) . So stay informed!

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM, next on Tuesday, November 8. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravaera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation, usually a day or two ahead of time.

Please join me in welcoming new members Byron Foster, Nikolay Mechev, and Josie Wernecke to Unit 507! Also, welcome Ben Bosklopper back to and Charles Rauch to Silicon Valley, both from Southern California, and David Helmbold back from the administrative cold and V S Seshadri and Tom Goodwin back from the cold places where they spend their summers.

I'm also happy as to announce that we have been officially notified that Liang Dong has been welcomed as a Junior Master; Rajeev Gupta has joined the ranks of Sectional Master; Yannie Zhao has become Regional Master; Kumar Ramaiyer has achieved NABC Master; Sandra Erickson achieved the status of Advanced NABC master; Susan Dietz has been promoted to Ruby Life Master; Dave Hyams achieved the rank of Silver Life Master; and Jason Chiu and Frank Xie became Gold Life Masters. Congratulations to all!

I'm unhappy to announce that we have been officially informed that Suzanne Koppett has died.

Our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details. This message usually comes out at just exactly the wrong time each month, so think of this as an early reminder for next month.

There is currently a regular ACBL sanctioned face-to-face club game at The Villages. Keep watching this space and the Silicon Valley Bridge web site <http://www.sjbridge.org> for others. A recent search determined that Bridge Lessons were available at at least 4 Community Centers in the area: Almaden, Camden, Willow Glen Senior and Cypress, so direct the friends with whom you'd like to partner and the enemies whom you'd like to beat to those places to learn our incomparable game!

I think of an expert as a person who always gets the easy (for an expert) things right, every time. I think of a star as a person from whom we've grown to expect exceptional things, from time to time. Since, it's post-season Baseball time, I will use a Baseball analogy. Reggie Jackson, my childhood idol, was a star. He hit over 550 home runs but struck out almost 2,600 times. His motto might well have been "Hit it where they don't play!" Joe DiMaggio, my Dad's idol, was an expert. He got a hit in every one of 56 games in a row. His motto might well have been "Show them where they ought to have been playing and then run like the wind!" Experts who are also stars are rare. If you know of bridge players like that, I'd like to hear about them.

I'll see you at the tables and hopefully at our Sectional! Let's show them how it's done!

Hello again! It's Mich Ravera here.

If it's Veteran's Day weekend, can the holidays be far behind? Well, to be precise, less than a week from now! Our Unit holiday party is scheduled for Saturday November 19 in the Roosevelt Room at the Campbell Community Center. The Unit will provide turkey and some other meats, but the rest will be potluck. This time bring your own drinks. The Unit will not be providing coffee, tea, sodas, or bottled water. There is a sign-up spreadsheet at <https://bit.ly/3yOQ2c6>. This will help us figure out how much turkey to buy, how many tables to bring, and whether we have a chance of a limited game (as we hope to). Set up starts at 12:00. If you want to try to help with the table transport before that, contact Ray Yuenger, Doug Hong, or me. We need all of the help that we can get. **Lunch will begin at 12:30**, with a pairs game at approximately 1:15 pm, but if everyone eats quickly, we might start a bit early, so get there by 1:00 pm, if you want to make sure that you can play. The game fee is \$10, but you can't even get a DoorDash turkey sandwich and 2 speedball BBO games for anything close to that. So, come out and join us!

Since last column, we held our Silicon Valley Fall Back Sectional. The turnout was good. Bruce Luttrell did a great job for a first-timer! I always say that Sectional Coordinators must work very hard, so that no one will know how hard they work! So it was with Bruce. In the two-session open pairs, Kevin Rosenberg was first overall, with Ken Rosenfeld and Michelle Liu first in their respective stratifications. Arif Janjua had a section top in the same event. Pamela Meckenstock & Barbara Roupe were first in the 499er pairs and Matthew Rode had a strat top. Stephen Lubeck prevailed in the side pairs. The Swiss team with Lynn Shannon & John Miller was first overall, with the team of Joanne Cornbleet & Carolyn Drozdiak prevailing in their strat.

We are in the process of scheduling our Spring Forward Sectional, most likely on the last few days of April. If you want to give input as to the events or a location where you'd like to see it held, now is the time to be heard! Talk to a Unit Board Member. We DO listen!

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM, next on Tuesday, December 13. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation, usually a day or two ahead of time.

Please join me in officially welcoming new members Vikram Kashyap and Rachele Wong to Unit 507! Also, welcome Martin Greenberg and Ken Wong to Silicon Valley from Pennsylvania and our neighboring Unit, respectively.

I'm also happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Nikolay Mechev and Carol Reid have been welcomed as Junior Masters. Congratulations to both of them!

I'm unhappy to announce that Bill Riester has died. Bill made frequent appearances in the Monthly and Yearly Top 10 Game Results. The quality of Bridge play will suffer from his loss.

Our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details. This message usually comes out at just exactly the wrong time each month, so think of this as an early reminder for next month.

There is currently a regular ACBL sanctioned face-to-face club game at The Villages. Keep watching this space and the Silicon Valley Bridge web site <http://www.sjbridge.org> for others. A recent search determined that bridge lessons are available at at least 4 Community Centers in the area: Almaden, Camden, Willow Glen Senior, and Cypress, so direct the friends with whom you'd like to partner and the enemies whom you'd like to beat to those places to learn our incomparable game!

If you ask players with 40 masterpoints whether they play transfers, it usually means over no trump openers and often over 1NT overcalls. If you ask players with 4,000 masterpoints whether they play transfers, it often means something entirely different. Transfers are a useful concept that can be employed in a number of situations that have nothing whatever to do with no trump. The most important feature of transfers is not the hand that they hide, nor the hand that might get to declare, nor the hand that gets to play last on the opening lead. If these had been the only advantage of transfers, they would have been abandoned many years ago. The big advantage of transfers is that they give the transferring hand a chance to bid again. They make it possible for a bid that must be either forcing or non-forcing to be made in either situation. I will gladly say more, if anyone asks.

I'll see you at the tables and hopefully at our Holiday Party! Let's show them how it's done!

Hello again! It's Mich Ravera here.

We had 21 tables at our holiday party. It is all together fitting and proper for a family-oriented holiday that all of the section tops in the open game were won by family pairs. Bob and Marcia Dean won it all. Lynn and Dianne Shannon won the top section. Rakesh and Rajeev Gupta and Manoj and Radhakishin Thawani both took the B/C section tops. In the 749er section, Pamela Meckenstock and Judy Macarthur took the D/E tops and Gary Levison and Rich Lordan topped the F strat. OK, so the turkey was dry, but our excellent treasurer, Karen O'Connell, got us a partial refund!

The "soft" opening of a larger face-to-face club in the Silicon Valley went so well that, as the character in "Jaws" said, "I think, you're going to need a bigger boat!" The results for this trial game can be found in a new section of our [website](#) called "Face-to-Face Game Results." Lynn Yokel will announce future games when she is ready. I am compelled to remind everyone that there is also a weekly club game held at The Villages. Check our website for any Unit announcements.

Right after New Year's Day, the Monterey Clambake Regional takes place January 2-8. The flyer is found at <https://tournaments.acbl.org/schedule.php?sanction=2301111>. I hope to see many of you there.

We are in the process of arranging our Spring Forward Sectional for the last few days of April. If you want to give input as to the events or a location where you'd like to see it held, now is the time to be heard! Talk to a Unit Board Member, particularly Bruce Luttrell, our sectional coordinator. We DO listen!

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM, next on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation, usually a day or two ahead of time.

Please join me in officially welcoming new members Richard Lordan, Matthew Suski, Julia Miller, and Charles White to Unit 507!

I'm also happy as to announce that we have been officially notified that Renee Cantu has advanced to Sectional Master, Ramesh Bhambhra advanced both to Life Master and to Bronze Life Master in the same month, Ed Logg was promoted to Silver Life Master, and Arif Janjua has advanced to Ruby Life Master. Congratulations to all of them!

Our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details. A recent search determined that Bridge Lessons were available at at least 4 Community Centers in the area: Almaden, Camden, Willow Glen Senior and Cypress, so direct the friends with whom you'd like to partner and the enemies whom you'd like to beat to those places to learn our incomparable game!

Have a happy holiday season (or try to keep your sanity while the others are enjoying theirs). This happy time of year will be over too soon! Enjoy every day! I'll see you at the tables!

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If you'd like to learn about transfer bidding, read on. Jeff Hack, who has written a number of columns that have appeared in our Unit's newsletter, and a player who evidently likes to complicate his life, asked to hear more about transfers. Suppose your partner opens a weak **2H**. Suppose further, as usual, you have a void in hearts, few high cards, but a 7-card club suit. If you were permitted to bid **3C** and then superglue your partner's bidding box shut, that would be exactly what you would do, but that would be illegal. Suppose, instead, you have a decent hand with pretty good clubs and heart support and would like to bid **3C** on the way to supporting hearts in hopes that you might uncover a

double fit in the round suits and may be on your way to game or slam. Or suppose that you have the C **AK** and a couple small hearts with very little else that will help. Wouldn't you like to be able to bid **3C** to direct a club lead for the likely situation where your side would end up on defense? Well, with transfers, you can do all of this. Of course, you'd make a transfer into clubs (most of us would use **2NT** as the transfer bid here). In the first case, after partner took the transfer, you would just pass. In the second case, you would rebid **3H** or **4H** at your next turn. In the last case, you would hope that opponents would get busy and bid their diamonds or spades, but bid **3H** or something else, if opponents didn't. If you already play transfers over no trump bids, all of this will be entirely familiar. It's just a different context. Maybe I'll say more in the new year.