

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org

TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board would like to thank all of you who made our Holiday Toy Drive an incredible, almost beyond the imagination success. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said, "Happiness is not made by what we own. It is what we share." And there was a whole lot of happiness at the November unit game. You donated well over 100 toys and with your cash contributions and all of our card fees for the game we contributed \$1,725 to Interfaith Community Services. This Holiday Season is certainly going to be brighter for a lot of families here in North County.

"Once in a lifetime" is a phrase that may be a little overused, but it looks like it applies to our non-life master regional scheduled for January 10th and 11th. Earlier this year the ACBL Board voted to allow Units to run sanctioned non-life master regional events with the permission of their District. As part of our mission to promote more opportunities for our non-life masters, we jumped at the opportunity and requested a sanction for the January dates. District 22 agreed and the ACBL sanctioned the dates. We have since learned that District 22 has reconsidered their position on letting units sanction regional events, and will not be approving any additional unit sanctioned events, so that truly makes this a "once in a lifetime" opportunity that our non-life masters shouldn't miss.

Just a heads up, Audrey Grant will be returning again this coming year on January 31st and February 1st. Registration is running way ahead of last years record attendance. There is a chance that we might have to limit registration because we have reached the capacity of our facilities. Anyone planning to attend or thinking of attending should get their registration in as soon as possible.

There will be no unit game next month. Our next unit game will be on February 22nd.

The Board would like to wish all of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. We hope you get your new year of duplicate bridge off to a great start by joining us at our Non-life Master Regional and Open Sectional on January 10th and 11th.

Art

Upcoming Unit 549 Events - Mark the Dates!

NLM Regional/Winter Sectional – Fri. & Sat., January 10 & 11, St. Gabriel's Catholic Church Auditorium, Poway (see below)

Audrey Grant Festival – Fri. & Sat., January 31 & February 1, 7 Oaks Community Center - RB (see below)

Unit 549 News

Happy New Year! 2020...it's pretty hard to skip some sort of cute reference to vision/sight/insight, etc. because it's just so obvious! Instead, let's remember that every new year is a gift full of possibilities for new adventures if we're open to them. So, here's wishing your new year is filled with good health and happy exploration, discovery, and growth - especially as it refers to bridge! We look forward to seeing you practicing your new skills at our tables for another great year of unit games.

I hope all you NLM players have scheduled yourselves to play in Unit 549's "once in a life-time" **NLM Regional/Winter Sectional**. That's right – once! We have learned that ACBL has decided that only Districts can sponsor Regionals from now on, so our event will truly be a one-time thing. AND, it's coming up fast...on **January 10th and 11th**. Every non-life master in San Diego County should take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to win GOLD points right here at home. If you haven't already got it scheduled, get a move on. Let us know if you need a partner and we'll try to help you find one. Go to our website at acblunit549.org and click on Partnerships.

Attention Open players: this is a combo event, which means that our Winter Sectional will run concurrently – in the same location as the NLM Regional. It will be held at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church Auditorium, 13734 Twin Peaks Road, Poway, CA 92064. There will be two sessions for each event both days of the tournament.

The NLM Regional will offer 0-750 "Gold Rush" 2-session games and single session side games (all stratified C: 0-200, B:200-500, A:500-750).

The Sectional (for silver points) will also offer 2 sessions per day, again with no requirement to play in both sessions each day. In addition to the Open Section (C:0-2000, B:2000-4000, A:4000+), there will be a 0-1500 Section (C:0-500, B:500-1000, A:1000-1500).

Games will start at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Entry fee for each session is \$13. Lunch will be available for purchase at \$7. Players with 0-20 MPS play free! Additional information and directions to St. Gabriel's is available on the event flyer posted on our website at acblunit549.org

There are a few more seats available for the **Audrey Grant Festival** we're hosting on **Friday, January 31** and **Saturday, February 1st**. If you haven't reserved your seat for this two-day event, do it soon, because space now is really limited.

The title for the first day's seminar is "Make a Difference on Defense with the Weakest Hand at the Table". The second day is "Improving Intuition: 5 Tips to Empower Declarer." Both days start at 10:00 a.m., and end at 3:00 p.m. with a break for lunch.

Advance reservations are \$79 each day if booked by January 18th, \$89 thereafter. The fee includes refreshments, lunch, and lesson materials. Although it's a two-day event, you don't have to attend both days. The cost is the same per

session whether you attend one or both. Make your checks payable to Escondido ACBL Unit 549; Send them to Alan Turner, 12578 Lomica Drive, San Diego, CA 92128

The seminars will be held at the Seven Oaks Community Center, 16789 Bernardo Oaks Drive, San Diego, CA 92128.

You will all be delighted to hear the results of our annual November Toy Drive Fund Raiser for the Interfaith Services "Adopt a Family" program. We took in \$1240 in card fees and received an additional \$490 in additional donations, plus two full car loads of toys. The pot-luck was terrific – as usual. There were varieties of food to please every palate, in sufficient quantity for everyone to be satisfied. SO, a really big thank you from the board for making this our most successful charity event ever!

With 31 ½ tables playing in that November unit game, there were too many winners to name them all here. But, if you're interested in seeing the complete list of all players and winners, please visit our website at acblunit549.org.

The top four overall winners for the Open section were: Bunny Schmidt – Jean Holt, Lawrence Sherman – Daniel Koppenhafer, Mac Busby – Cameron Cotton, and Ken Matson – Hazel Turner.

The top four overall winners in the NLM section were: Kim Lazarus – Liane Brennar, Stuart Showalter – Sarah Hans, Ramakant Asaravala – David Greenwood/Kevin Spiro – Mark Spiro/Sheila Slayton – Sandra Hrstich (3-way tie).

Welcome new members to Unit 549: Ellen Fowler, Lydia Irvine, Sandra King, Fran Heffler, James Rafferty, Mark Slonium, and Deborah Slonium.

Members attaining new levels of achievement:

New Junior Master: Donna Capone

New Club Masters: Ram Lal, and Nancy Neal

Sectional Master: Joan Gershman

New Regional Masters: Sandra Hrstich, and Lynne Jaseph

New Gold Life Master: Al Nadel

In addition to acknowledging the achievement of these bridge milestones, the unit awards a free play at an upcoming unit game to each of these outstanding players. Congratulations to all!

Unit 549 Club News

Bridge Club of North County

We're **OPEN** on January 1st – New Year's Day. Two sessions, 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We're having an "Appetizers Pot Luck" all day. Morning players can bring late morning/brunch type foods if you prefer. Everyone is invited to stay after the game and visit for a while. Start the new year out right by socializing with some of the people you play bridge with all year...with no time clock to limit the chatting! Hey...if you have nothing more pressing to do, you can stick around and play all day! Remember, if

you play in the morning, your game fee for the afternoon session is only \$6. What a deal!

By the way, if you haven't decided on a "New Years Resolution" yet, one of the most popular ones I found on the internet is to "learn something new". We have a golden opportunity for you to follow through on this one! Every Thursday afternoon at 1:00, the club will sponsor an on-going class with Norman Schwartz, who is a Sapphire Life Master, ACBL Certified Bridge Teacher, and National Champion. Topics scheduled for discussion will be posted on the Club News bulletin board – usually a few weeks in advance. Here's the current schedule: **Jan. 16th** - Hand Evaluation – Part 2; **Jan. 23rd** - Slam Bidding (Note, this class - \$15, includes booklet signed by Eddie Kantar); **Jan. 30th** - Doubles – Part 1; **Feb. 6th** - Doubles – Part 2; **Feb. 13th** - Dummy Recognition; **Feb. 20th** - Cue Bids – Part 1; **Feb. 27th** - Cue Bids – Part 2.

You don't need to pre-register and you don't need to come with a partner. You can attend whenever the subject scheduled for discussion appeals to you. Cost per lesson is \$10.

Speaking of learning, a new **Bridge Basics 1 series** (6 weekly classes) is set to begin on Thursday, January 9th at 9 a.m. The cost is \$70, which includes the BB1 lesson book. To register for this class email hazelturnerbridge@gmail.com

Also beginning in January is an "open" 8-lesson series entitled "**Play of the Hand.**" You don't have to register in advance. Cost is \$10 per lesson. The first session will be on January 18th and then every Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. for 8 weeks. Flyers with a list of titles for all eight lessons are available at the club and on our website.

For exact dates and times of the various club games and activities, check the "Calendar of Events" on our website. You can print a copy for easy reference. To find everything you need to know about bridge at the club, go to: www.bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org The club address is 2320 S. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, 92025. Phone # is 760-807-9396. Email: bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com. Feel free to contact the club regarding club programs, special games, and partnership help.

We're **CLOSED** on Friday and Saturday, January 10th and 11th so that everyone can participate in the Unit 549 NLM Regional/Winter Sectional (details elsewhere in this article).

Our club's most special event in January will take place on Monday, the 20th. Thanks to all of you for your patronage and support, we will be celebrating our **5-year anniversary** as Bridge Club of North County! Wahoo!!

To mark this special milestone, the club will provide a catered lunch for all players at 11:45 a.m. Morning players are invited to stay for lunch and afternoon players are invited to come early to allow time to eat before the afternoon game starts at 12:30 p.m. Sign-up is required so we can get a headcount for the caterer. The sign-up sheet is located on the wall behind the director's desk.

January is ACBL's **Junior Fund Month**. Extra table fees collected this month go to advancing junior player programs for youth up to age 26. We really want to support this program that reaches out to encourage young people across the country to join our bridge family, so plan to play as many of these games as possible. Players earn 63.6%

sectional-rated black points. Look on our calendar at the club and online to see when these games will be offered.

The monthly **Birthday Celebration** will be on Monday, January 13th, and don't forget that Saturdays are Pizza Days so you get a free lunch with your bridge game.

Top Five Open Players for November: Tim Flaherty, Sheila Latus, Rex Latus, Dan Higgins, and Art Foeste.

Top Five NLM 150-499 Players for November: Ken Patrick, Angela Jaraicie, Dorothea Williams, Jack Stanley, and Bejai Higgins.

Top Five 0-149 Players for November: Mel Cohn, Noel Weidner, Dixie Peterson, Dave Peterson, and Madelyn Trainor.

There were **three games over 70%** in November. Special kudos to the following pairs: Sue Halfaker and Susan Van Cott (71.03% on 11/18), Dave Anding and Rick Gold (75.46% on 11/20), and Judy Astamendi and Debby Wunderle (72.5% on 11/25).

Our winner for the title "**Player of the Month**" for November is Candace Blocher. Candace was nominated because: "She's just delightful!", "She's a good player and so pleasant all the time", "Everyone likes her, she's just always so nice", "She's so welcoming and gracious", "She's a great partner."

Our winner for the title "**Student of the Month**" for November is Rosemarie Straight. Reasons provided by her instructors and mentors are the following: She attends all the classes, and comes regularly to the 0-20 game on Wednesday mornings. She works at improving her game and has a reputation for being a great partner with a nice personality.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding players. Their pictures will be posted on the *STARS* bulletin board throughout the month of December.

Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club

Top Five Open players for November: Rima Sharron, John Sharron, Lorraine Gordon, Tom Nolan, and Ray Curtiss.

Top Five NLM players for November 0-499: George Wilkinson, Sandy Hrstich, Ed Zevely, Angie Tilaro, and Julie Watkins.

The Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club holds one game each week on Wednesday at the San Marcos Senior Center, 111 Richmar Avenue, San Marcos, CA 92069. It starts at 11:30 AM. Snacks and coffee are provided. The cost is \$8.00. For further information call John Coulombe at 760-715-5896, or Nina Laughbaum at 760-736-9386.

Bridge in Ramona

Our regular games are held at St. Mary's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 1010 12th Street. The current schedule has two Open Pairs games: Thursday night from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and Friday morning from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM with a break for (bring your own) lunch. We also periodically schedule special games – like the World-Wide Bridge Tournament and STaCs. If you would like to join us, please email: bridgeinramona@game.com to make a reservation. Our game fee is \$7. For more information about our club or upcoming events, please contact Maxine McNamara at wildrose@barneymc.com or 760-788-6189.

January 2020

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org

Bridge Club of North County (BCNC) - 2320 S. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA 92025
 (760) 807-9396 • bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com • bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org
 Lake San Marcos DBC - John Coulombe, Director, Nina Laughbaum, Manager
 111 Richmar Ave, San Marcos, CA 92069 • (760) 715-5896 or (760) 736-9386
 Bridge in Ramona - Maxine McNamara
 Information: (760) 788-6189 • wildrose@barneyinc.com

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Unit 549 Board Members: President – Art Foeste; Vice-President – Alan Turner; Secretary/Recorder – Dorothea Williams; Treasurer – Ken Matson; Tournament Chair – Trish Frinelli; Hospitality – Joan Gershman; Sharon Feingold; Membership Chair/Publicity – Noel Weidner; Education Liaison – Hazel Turner; Disciplinary Chair – Jill Roberts | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| NO GAMES TODAY | BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND | BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND | BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game | BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM | BCNC CLOSED UNIT 549 SECTIONAL/ NLM REGIONAL ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH 13734 Twin Peaks, Poway 10 AM & 2:30 PM | BCNC CLOSED UNIT 549 SECTIONAL/ NLM REGIONAL ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH 13734 Twin Peaks, Poway 10 AM & 2:30 PM |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| NO GAMES TODAY | BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION | BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND | BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game | BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM | BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM | BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs JUNIOR FUND 12:30 PM - Pizza Day 9 AM Play of the Hand \$10 Making a Plan |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| NO GAMES TODAY | BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND BCNC 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEB FREE LUNCH/SIGN UP REQD. | BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND | BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game | BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM | BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM | BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs JUNIOR FUND 12:30 PM - Pizza Day 9 AM Play of the Hand \$10 Developing Tricks |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| NO GAMES TODAY | BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND | BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND | BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game | BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM | BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM AUDREY GRANT (7 Oaks CC) | |