

San Diego –September 2017

By Larry Sherman

The first adjectives that come to mind when asked to describe bridge players probably veer towards competitive, serious, linear thinking, analytical, etc. That probably runs true whether you are asking players or non-players. Low and behold, having gone through an unexpected medical situation recently, the first adjectives that jump out to me now are compassionate, caring, supportive, empathic, loving, and giving. Sure, we can be serious and competitive, but where the rubber meets the road, we are there for one another as a community. A good example of that was the 6th annual fundraiser for Ray Sachs' medical missions, which was held at Adventures in Bridge on July 29. Wirt Gilliam donated his club, directing skills, and all his supplies. Maritha Pottenger, Judy Rimer, Pat Sullivan, and Ellen Michaud made desserts. Ray sprang for pizza. 19 tables worth of players came out to support this cause. Karen Ressigue, Director of Programming for Esperanca (the charity which sponsors Ray's medical missions), traveled here from Phoenix and spoke briefly to thank the bridge community for its generosity over the last six years, presenting a bouquet of flowers to Mimi Anderson in appreciation of her financial contribution to purchase a specialized pediatric medical device that Ray and Mark Austerlitz (another surgeon who is joining Ray on missions), had sourced out. 100% of the bridge donations go to buy equipment and supplies for the work they do. Ray and all his colleagues pay their own airfare and expenses. This year's fundraising brought in over \$12,000 from three revenue streams: about \$4,000 from outright donations; about \$4000 from the charity game; about \$4000 from a silent auction for the chance to play a session with a bridge pro. Thanks go to Dorn Bishop, Paul Darin, Lynne Feldman, Wirt Gilliam, Kent Hartman, Greg House, JJ Johnsen, Maritha Pottenger and Phyllis Yates for donating a session of bridge to the cause. These monies will transform the lives of children in Peru who can live healthy lives instead of being permanently handicapped due to hip displacements and other complications from the birth process. Kudos to all the generous (another of those adjectives) bridge players. Our 1st Sunday unit event in July attracted 19 tables in the open game. Flight A was won by Michael Mezin/Elaine Chan. Winners in Flights B and C were Bridgette Poizner/Deb Bowyer. The 6 table 999er game winners were: B: Mimi McKnight/Lynne Vallacher, while the C and D flights were won by Tammy Wyer/Jocelyn Bauer. Our 2nd Sunday unit event was a District 22/23 STaC game. Open game attracted 23 1/2 tables. Winners in Flight A were Maritha Pottenger/Kent Hartman, while Mike Koscielski/Chebli Jada won the B and C strats. We attracted 7 tables to the 999er game, which was won by Janice and Howard Richard. Finishing 1st in Flight D were Ellen Michaud/Thomas Geldner. The total to 30 1/2 tables was the largest in recent memory, and the unit appreciates your support.

We are happy to announce that some new milestones have been reached by Unit 539 members: Club: Kenneth Martin and Virginia Shue; Bronze: Deb Bowyer; Silver: Corazon Dulay; Sapphire: Elizabeth Poplawsky. Our Awards Chairperson, Carolyn Casey, will be in contact to offer a free play at any of our unit games during a 3 month window. We would also like to welcome 5 new members to our unit: Anne Powers, Barbara Reedhead, Valerie Richardson, Howard Sommers, and Marilyn Woods.

Club News: San Diego Bridge Academy sandiegobridgeacademy.com and Redwood Bridge Club redwoodbridgeclub.org, David Walters director. We host at least 2 games each day (except Sunday), plus supervised play, a youth program, mini lectures before some games, and a variety of classes. Recent topics have included modern no-trump bidding, deadly defense (nobody actually dies), and declarer play. Classes run for 6 weeks and cost \$125 plus \$25 for textbook (if any). Consider the new supervised play session for beginners every Wednesday

9:30 - 12:00 and free youth bridge on Saturday mornings. The 21st Century Bridge Club meets every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Redwood Bridge Club. This sanctioned game is run by Betty Riedler, who can be reached at 619 276-3476 or bettyriedler@gmail.com with any questions or partnership requests. This independent club has been holding games since 1950. San Diego Bridge Club facility (The Columbus Club, 4425 Home Ave) is in process of receiving a face lift as time and money permits. They currently have one game on Tuesdays at 10:30 that includes a light lunch. July's winners included Jackie Ives/Al Folkman, Margaret Sohn/Vickie Mogiler, and Ursala Prado/Patricia Lane.