

San Diego

By Larry Sherman

Welcome to our debut electronically distributed *Forum* column. On the one hand, I will miss seeing the paper in the mailbox and turning the pages. Many people enjoy reading their names on the printed page, so that has been lost. On the lighter side, I can take solace knowing critics can no longer crumble my words and use them as kindling in their fireplaces.

If you peruse this column on a regular basis, you will recall reading about Stop Card's sudden illness last fall and subsequent passing on January 1. Shiva was observed in my household to honor Stop Card and friends and family honored his memory. As time moves on after a loved one's passing, it's not uncommon to visualize images of him/her, especially in familiar surroundings. When I started playing at the Pacific Southwest Regional at the Town and Country Hotel, there he was, right in the bidding box at my first table. And low and behold, I would see signs of him in every box I crossed paths with. It was as if Stop Card had risen from the dead and been resurrected during Easter week. Did the directors not get the memo last year that Stop Card was laid to rest at ACBL tournaments on January 1, 2018? Unit volunteers went through every single bidding box at our own Unit 539 Sectional tournament in March and donated every last evidence of his memory to Arleen Harvey, who is using them for a personal project. Our own Jack Spade spoke with Arleen about Stop Card's presence here; "San Diego's larger numbers compared with Riverside is the reason many of the District's boxes have them still present. Those would be ones that were not used in February."

Several of our Unit members had memorable tournaments. Sharyn Pyrz and Mike Koscielski earned Life Master status. Bette and John Strauch were our top point earners at 72.45 and 71.36. Finishing 1st overall in Tuesday's Open Pairs event, 2nd overall in Wednesday's Open Pairs, and 5th overall in Sunday's Fast Pairs goes a long way. Also, spotlight on our Unit's John Evans-Steve Rattner pair, who finished 1st overall in Thursday's Open Pairs event, and followed that with a Friday/Saturday Bracket 2 Knockout event win, carrying a pair of hopeless teammates on their backs.

By the time this edition reaches you, we shall have announced the winners of the 2017 Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards at our April 15 game. Mini McKenney awards are based upon total master points earned (not including online points), while Ace of Clubs awards are based upon master points earned at clubs (not including silver points earned at STaC games). Your category is based upon master point status as of January 1, 2017. There are 15 categories. Here are the winners in each, with Mini McKenney listed first: 0-5: Patrick Chen (both). 5-20: Jimmy Stevens (both). 20-50: Patrick Staley/Delynn Kelly. 50-100: Harry Arora (both). 100-200: Davis Bennett (both). 200-300: Jennifer Prairie/Steve Provol. 300-500: Mike Koscielski/Adele Gerstenhaber. 500-1,000: Charles O'Malley III/Ralph Tribbey. 1,000-1,500: Tom Herzog (both). 1,500-2,500: Larry Sherman (both). 2,500-3,500: Dorn Bishop (both). 3,500-5,000: Andy Loh (both). 5,000-7,500: Paul Darin/Ron Huffaker. 7,500-10,000: Mac Busby/Phyllis Yates. 10,000+: Steve Cooper/Roger Doughman. Congratulations to all and good luck to everyone in 2018.

We are still actively recruiting new board members to join us in June. Jane Petering is our hard working Chief of Recruitment, and she is targeting Non-Life Masters to help compliment a board made up of many Life Masters. Our unit is comprised of about 57.4% Non-Life Masters, and we want to make sure their interests are well represented.

Our unit plans to introduce two special games this year that we'd like to make you aware of. The August 5 Unit game will be a mixed gender pair competition, with both Open and 999er sections as usual.. The October 7 Unit game feature pairings of players with less than 1,000 MP and players with more than 1,000 MP. There will only be one section for this game. We encourage you to find your own partners for each of these games, but if you need assistance, feel free to contact our partnership chairperson.

We are working on our 2nd edition of a Unit 539 newsletter, tentatively scheduled to be published in May. We are interested in what other pursuits our members are interested in. Please share yours, including any photos, by emailing beboplar@yahoo.com.

Due to the Spring Sectional staged at Marina Village earlier in the month, we featured only one unit game on March 18. The Open Section attracted 17 1/2 tables. Finishing 1st in the A strat were Tim Flaherty-Bob Moore, while Carolyn Crabtree-Vi Breckenridge won the B and C strats. We see Vi far too infrequently since moved up to La Costa Glen a year or so ago. Come visit more often, Vi. 7 tables competed in the 999er game, with Barb and Bruce Hanson winning, while Aileen Emer-Karen Hunt finished atop the B, and Joanne Koscielski-Sam San-Wong won the C.

We are happy to announce that some new milestones have been reached by Unit 539 members: Club: Gayle Greene and Sam San-Wong; Sectional: Shelley Basson. 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. The Unit welcomes Bob Johnson as a new member. In addition, Mark Hartzell has transferred into our unit from Pasadena/San Gabriel. Finally, the unit welcomes back Matt Baylow, formerly the owner of the Scripps Ranch Duplicate Bridge Club.

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Jules Hertz after his valiant fight against lung cancer. Jules, 88, passed away in his sleep at home on Friday, February 16, 2018. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Carole; sister Milly; daughters Ruth and Suzanne; and grandchildren, Enrico, Emilia, Chase and Grant.

Club News: The San Diego Bridge Club (www.sandiegobridgeclub.com) offers a weekly game every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Winners from March were Joyce Blumberg-Paul Darin, Joe Rubin-John Lagodimos, and Craig Caldwell-Bob Riley. Starting in April we will have a drawing for a free play for a pair the following week. Anyone can win just come and play and have a chance to win a free play. The club will host a STaC game on May 8th.

San Diego Bridge Academy (www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com) and Redwood Bridge Club (redwoodbridgeclub.org). Check out the websites for game results, descriptions of all the available games and lessons.

Adventures in Bridge (www.adventuresinbridge.com). Check out the website. Game results are posted quickly and there's a description of all the available games and lessons.

21st Century Bridge Club meets every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Redwood Bridge Club. If you need a partner or would like information on this sanctioned game, please call Betty Riedler at 619-276-3476, or email her at bettyriedler@gmail.com.

