

## EAST BAY UNIT

by Tom Pajak

As I write this, the East Bay Summer Sectional is just around the corner. As in the past, we'll hold a 2-day contest at the Oakland Masonic Center (June 23 & 24), and yes—I realize it'll all be over by the time you read this column. Sandi Davis will give kudos to all who finished well when she writes next month's article, but I wanted to give an early shout-out to Libby Silver who organized all the festivities. For those of you who don't realize it, managing a Sectional event takes months of pre-planning and negotiating. One major hurdle is securing a playing space large enough to accommodate 70 tables of players with the necessary chairs, kitchen space, and parking required at an affordable rent cost (what an oxymoron "affordable rent!" with Bay Area prices being what they are!) Then Libby recruits people to buy the food, prepare and serve lunch both days, others to set up and break down the room, still others to haul supplies in and out of the facility, and Libby puts the Unit Treasurer on point to let us know if we've eked out a small profit from all this work. Anybody want to volunteer to help at the next Sectional on November 17 & 18? As you can tell, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Don't forget the 12:00 noon Saturday games at the East Bay Community Bridge Center. We're having three of them in July: on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the 21<sup>st</sup>, and the 28<sup>th</sup>. Table fees are the usual \$7 per player. If you're still a working person who's itching to play daytime bridge, this is your golden opportunity. Grab a partner and plan to show up for a great session of duplicate. Games last about 3-1/2 hours; coffee & snacks are provided. We ask that you contact Betty Kael ([bkael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bkael@sbcglobal.net)) to let her know you'll be playing.

How would you like a subsidized trip to Memphis next March? Everyone has a chance if you play in the North American Pairs (NAP) contest this summer. It begins with a qualification at the club level. If you and a partner scratch in the upper half of your strata, you'll receive a "Q" next to your names on the final score. This indicates you've qualified to advance to the next level, a Unit Qualifier. You'll get one chance to play in a Unit NAP game to get another "Q" that allows you to advance to play in the District qualifier in December. If you then finish among the top contenders in your strata, District 21 will give you a partial subsidy to play in the NAP finals at the Memphis NABCs March 21-31, 2019. Sound like fun? Then plan to play at EBCBC on Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and/or on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> where for \$7 you can begin your journey up the NAP ladder to Memphis.

Grant & Greg Vance are offering a six-hour class titled, "To Slam or Not To Slam" on Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at EBCBC. For \$100 you'll get lunch and instruction about Minorwood, Exclusion, Roman Key Card, Blasting, Cue Bidding, and much more. If you think you could use some invaluable tips on slam bidding, send an e-mail to Grant ([GrantVance1@gmail.com](mailto:GrantVance1@gmail.com)) to register. Those folks who've attended other classes offered by Grant & Greg praise them highly for their witty style and clear instruction technique.

Results of recent Unit games show Ed Seputis, John Eidinger, Blair Hoffman, and David Geary taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the May 20<sup>th</sup> Pizza Swiss game followed in 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherry Larsen-Beville, Susan Kovacevic, Neal Mazaroff, and Stuart Schneck. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> it was Otto Edor & Gunnar Niemi taking 1<sup>st</sup> place N/S with

Bonnie Macbride & Sidney May 1<sup>st</sup> E/W. Second place N/S went to Peter Bonfanti & Grant Vance, with E/W to Elazar Friedman & Tom Pajak. In the June 17<sup>th</sup> NAP Qualifier game, top of the heap were Gary Peck & Robert Ipswitch N/S, and Jessica Lai & Dmitri Shabes E/W. Following them came Greg Vance & Doug Couchman N/S with Robin Roche & Vicki Lerner E/W. Well done, everyone. Remember Unit games are held every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month beginning at 1:00 p.m. But plan to come early, because we serve a free lunch before the game—all this for a mere \$7. Plan on attending.

Unit 502 has a new member—Jennifer Bell, and four others transferring into our unit: Cris Barrere, Marcia Bohan, Monica Deutsch, and Bob Kaplan. Let's give all of them a rousing welcome next time we're at the table together, ok? And rank advancements? Oh sure, let's give pats on the back to new Junior Master Ann Reynolds, Bronze Life Master Marcia Wasserman, Silver Life Masters Barry Kael & Sherry Larsen-Beville, and ta-da! Emerald Life Master Eric Leong. It takes years of fine playing to reach that pinnacle and we're proud you made it, Eric.

That's it for this month. If you have any juicy news, let Sandi Davis in on it, and she'll spread it around in next month's column ([sandi.david21@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.david21@gmail.com)).