

## EAST BAY UNIT

By

Tom Pajak

Whew! Tax season has ended, so I hope everyone has received some blessings in cash from Uncle Sam and (in California) Uncle Jerry. I've 'retired' from the tax business a few years ago, but still assist plenty of my favorite clients from the bridge clubs every spring. Maybe tax refunds can equate to masterpoint earnings? Let's see who earned some well-deserved refunds:

In the most recent Unit games, on March 18<sup>th</sup> we saw our illustrious Unit President, Neal Mazaroff, and his infamous partner Stuart Schneck, grabbing 1<sup>st</sup> overall N/S against the formidable E/W pair of Pat Leary & Bill Rudman, with East Bay resident comedian Ching Chao and astrological aficionado partner Joye Sidoti falling in 2<sup>nd</sup> E/W with a close margin. For the April Fool's (April 1<sup>st</sup>) game we had N/S winners Barak Engel & Lynn Yokel (tournament director extraordinaire) finishing 1<sup>st</sup> N/S against District 21 webmaster Grant Robinson & partner Teri Boyd taking E/W. Following those were our brilliant instructor Ravi Bhalla with money-man David Snyder grabbing 2<sup>nd</sup> N/S followed by hockey maven Ed Seputis w/ Denis Racine in 2<sup>nd</sup> place E/W. Have I used enough descriptive adjectives to suit all of you?

Remember that STaC week starts May 7<sup>th</sup> and runs through May 13<sup>th</sup>. This is your chance to grab those elusive silver points at clubs. Any time you scratch, you'll get silver...and if you finish in the great western overall awards, you'll reap many more silver nuggets. Plan to grab your loyal partner and play at all the club events during that week for fun, silver, and interesting hands every session. The East Bay Community Bridge Center will have STaC games going Monday through Saturday (May 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) so plan to attend them all, especially if you're lacking those coveted silver goodies! You know the venue is friendly, affordable, accommodating, with easy curbside parking and the most delicious snacks around.

Let's welcome new Unit 502 member Blair Hull as well as those transferring into our unit: Bettina Brill, Tom Griswold, and Barbara Parsons (from San Fernando). We also bid a fond farewell out of Unit 502 to Cass Hawes who's moving to San Luis Obispo—we all remember Cass as a superb player with everything good to say about absolutely everyone. Happy travels to you, Cass, and keep impressing those down south with your elegance and courtesy.

Let's congratulate Margaret Garms as our newest Junior Master along with Helene Byrne (Club Master), Gail Oraftik (Sectional Master), and Lois Horwitz (Bronze Life Master). We all know these rank advancements are a crawl-by-crawl effort and all those fractional points DO add up, so just keep playing and doing well....everyone! You'll eventually see your name in this column once you overcome the next threshold.

In closing, it's time to wish a quick and healthy recovery to Susan Wiebe who's undergone some serious health issues, and also continued favorable progress to Carin Caroe in her health difficulties. Let's also hope that Seiko Hazanow finds a rapid recovery from her recent fall so she can return to the bridge tables quickly.

We also offer our condolences to the family of Esther Larsen, wife of the late "Chili" Larsen, mother of Sherry Larsen-Beville. Esther graced our tables for many years with her lovely sweet spirit. This month, we also lost Pauline Mar, mother of Sidney Mar, who was a regular player at many games for years past as well as enjoying her fame as an accomplished ballroom dancer. Sadly, two more deaths were just announced: Daisy Roman and Thera Hettick, both regular players at Doug Handler's Monday night Piedmont game who have passed away. We remember all of these lovely women with fondness and offer their families our sincere sympathy for their loss.