

San Diego – August 2017

By Larry Sherman

After 22 years of bringing Unit 539's news to you via this column, Vicki Creamer has handed over the reins, as well as ended her active role on the Unit's Board of Directors. We want to thank her for her 12 years of service to that board in a variety of capacities, and also thank outgoing Board members Barb Holles, who served as Treasurer for 12 years, and Marty Roth, who established a benchmark of achievement for Hospitality. Your new Forum contributor will lean on his journalistic background which includes writing a sports column for his high school newspaper and reviewing new record albums for his college daily. I look forward to hearing from any of you who wish to share stories that our members might find interesting. Feel free to email me at beboplar@yahoo.com with your Unit 539 related bridge tid bits.

Our 1st Sunday Unit event in June was the annual Membership game. We had 19 tables in the Open game. It was a closely contested finish won by David Abelow and Dorn Bishop, with a 0.11% margin over Roger Doughman and Suzanne LeBendig. Winners in Flight B were Susan and Avram Ninyo and Flight C were Pat Wilkey and Barbara Blake. The 4 table 999er game winners were: A: Brian Castle and Howard Latin; B: Gigette Caldwell and Craig Caldwell; C: Ruth Ng and Patrick Chen.

Our 2nd Sunday Open game attracted 17 tables. Winners in Flights A and B were Linda Gu and Tom Herzog, while those Ninyos won the C flight. We only attracted 3 tables to the 999er game, which was won by Carolyn Casey and Brian Jones. Finishing 1st in Flights B and C were Tammy Wyer and Jocelyn Bauer.

We would love to attract more players to our 999er events. You are our future, and in order to make the games a more attractive option for your Sunday afternoons, we offer a free lesson, at 12:30, most often by Maritha Pottenger, sometimes by a guest substitute. In addition, we recently began selling package discounts. Normal pricing is \$10 per game, but you can purchase four 999er entry coupons plus a discount coupon to our next Sectional tournament, all for \$30. See any of your Unit 539 representatives to get in on this special offering before the lines start rivaling the next iPhone release.

Occasionally we hear of a fellow player's passing; most often I hear from Jo Boyer, who is San Diego's unofficial Bridge Obituary Registrar. Sometimes it turns out to be someone I never heard of, and in fact sometimes it turns out to be someone who built bridges, as Jo's search field may include the mention of the word bridge. Recently a member who has not played in a while due to physical challenges passed. Tom McDowell was not only a good bridge player, but a good guy. Tom and his wife, Jewell, hosted an annual Holiday bridge event for several years, first at their residential building clubhouse, and then at the Redwood Bridge Club. For those of us lucky enough to have shared good times with Tom, we will surely miss him.

We are happy to announce that some new milestones have been reached by Unit 539 members: Junior: Jeannie Abts and J Stephen Haine; Club: Joyce Baker, Charles Greene, and Dilma Morello; Regional: Joanna Hirst; NABC: Margery Farnsworth and Ruth Ng; Advanced NABC: Ray Hilbert; Life: Craig Caldwell, Art Murphy, Carol Murphy, Carole Lee Schreiber, and Ralph Tribbey; Sapphire: Belton Allen; Diamond: Samuel Jordan. 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 3 new members to our unit: Patrick Chen, Max Jarman, and Jan Vandal.

Club News: San Diego Bridge Academy (sandiegobridgeacademy.com) and Redwood Bridge Club (redwoodbridgeclub.org), David Walters director. Once again Redwood's members and the San Diego Bridge Academy showed their generous spirit on ACBL's The Longest Day. They raised more than \$5,000 for the Alzheimer's Association and had a great time doing it.

They look forward to it again next year. Now they are back to their regular schedule of at least two games each day (except Sunday), plus multiple educational opportunities including supervised play, a youth program, lectures, and a full schedule of classes. Check their websites for more information. 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. June's winners included Jim Johnsen/Mary Loehr, Robin Rodger/Sam Madison, and Elaine Chan/Bob Shapley. Adventures in Bridge will be host to Ray Sach's Annual medical mission fund raising game on Saturday, July 29, at 5:00 p.m. Maritha Pottenger once again has organized an evening of bridge, pizza, and home made desserts. This year fellow player and orthopedic surgeon Mark Austerlitz will be joining Ray. We would love to see you all support your Unit by playing in our upcoming Summer Sectional from Friday, August 4 through Sunday, August 6. There will be both pairs games and Swiss team events all three days held at the Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay. Flyers are available at San Diego area bridge clubs. Direct your general questions to our Tournament Chair Lamy Agelidis at (615)887-1012 or lamya.agelidis@gmail.com and inquiries for partners to Marge Van Hemert at (619)421-0813 or mvanhemert@cox.net. If you feel the need to offer your services as a volunteer, your Unit would be happy to hear from you. Have fun at the table.