

San Diego –December 2017

By Larry Sherman

Responses to the breaking news first reported in this column of Stop Card's impending passing have been widespread and overwhelming. Hotel rooms in San Diego are selling at unprecedented rates due to Stop Card's final appearance at an ACBL NABC. Palm Desert is experiencing similar room shortages for the dates surrounding the Palm Springs Regional, Stop Card's final Southern CA tournament appearance. In related news, friends of Alert Card are monitoring his behavior closely. Our on the scene reporter, Pass Card, has observed signs of depression and a suicide watch is in place by his fellow bidding box mates. A march upon ACBL headquarters in Horn Lake, Mississippi has been planned by X and XX; Joan Baez will be leading the way with protest songs such as Peter, Paul, and Mary's "Where Have All the Stop Cards Gone?" Stop signs across the nation's intersections are threatening to cover themselves in black veils, while traffic lights say they will remain on red. To date, ACBL's only response has been to issue Vacancy signs to all bidding boxes across the land. Thus far there have been no takers. There is a rumor going around that ACBL will close the Fall NABC with Diana Ross and the Supremes singing their hit "Stop in the Name of Bridge" to honor Stop Card's memory.

It is the rare occasion where an event can simultaneously raise money for a good cause, introduce 20 new players to our game, and have 8 volunteers, lead by Roy Green, assist to to make their introduction palatable. Thanks to Judy Rimer, Victoria Haines, Tom Sauer, John Evans, Carol Brager, John Howard, and myself in helping Roy out. Nobody learned how to make a striped tail ape double, but we certainly found out what Golden fits and Golden contracts are, what a trick is, what trump is, and the difference between the major and minor suits. Teaching the game of bridge to those completely unfamiliar presents quite a challenge, one that Roy went to great length to prepare for. Thank you, Roy. The event was able to raise close to \$2,200 to assist San Diego breast cancer victims and those who can not afford screenings. For you bridge math wizards, there was a raffle conducted with 4 prize winners. Each participant and most volunteers (6 tables of 4) received 1 ticket each. What are the probabilities that 4 people from 1 table won all the prizes? I am thinking Tom Herzog can answer this question!

Lena Jelusich celebrated her 100th birthday on October 20, playing with long time partner Roger Doughman at Adventures in Bridge. Read comments from admirers on our website at www.sandiegobridge.com.

The Non-Life Master Sectional, which our Unit co-sponsored with the La Jolla Unit, was a success. The tournament, held at the Lawrence JCC, attracted 68 tables total, an increase from 2016. Some of the winners included Patrick Staley - Gerald Kibbey, Edward Zeverly - Harry Arora, Susan Foreman - Rochelle Terry, Marvin Schwedock - Larry Gach, and Jake and Luke Williams. For all the results and a story about who made this possible, visit our website at www.sandiegobridge.com.

Planning has commenced for our annual Holiday party. "This year's" party will actually be held on January 7, 2018, due to two ACBL scheduling conflicts named the Fall Nationals and the Palm Springs Regional Tournament. Make plans to join us to welcome in the New Year at the Soledad Club. If you are a regular participant in our Unit games, you may qualify to celebrate with us for free. 12 game entries by the qualification date in 2017 is the trick.

We had 3 games this month. Our 1st game attracted 16 1/2 tables in the Open section. Winners in Flight A were Davis Bennett - Jim Johnsen. Lamya Agelidis - Larry Sherman won the B, while Bob Mann - Supriyo Datta the C strat. We attracted 5 tables to the 999er game, which was won by Suresh Kanekar - Batia Kvashny. Finishing 1st in Flights B & C were Mandy Butler - Barbara Weir.

The next Sunday open game attracted 18 tables., and was a Club Appreciation game. Winners in Flight A were Sam Jordan - Bill Grant. Carolyn Casey - Marilyn Peters-Dunn won the B & C strats. We attracted 4 tables to the 999er game, which was won by Carol and Art Murphy. Finishing 1st in Flight B were Prem Sehgal - Steve Heine, while Penny Herzog - Sam San-Wong won C.

We hosted a game on the 5th Sunday. The Open section attracted 18 1/2 tables. Lynne Feldman - Judy Rimer were the overall winners, while Ray and Alan Rowen won the B strat and Marjorie and Charles O'Malley won the C. In the 5 table 999er game, Carolyn Casey - Brian Jones were the winners, while Selby Winkler - Charmaine Principe won the B and Penny Herzog - Vera Halbach the C.

We are happy to announce that some new milestones have been reached by Unit 539 members: Junior: Candace Blocher; Club: Patrick Chen, Dan Gercke, Judy Mackay, and Prem Sehgal; Regional: Joanne Koscielski and Larry Meyer; Life: Liz Granby and Irene Sowle; Diamond: Jim Andrews. 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 two new members, Candace Gawler and Wayne Wheeler, to our unit.

Club News: Check with your local clubs to see whether they will be open during the Fall NABC (November 23 - December 3) and Palm Springs Regional (December 11 - December 17) tournaments.