

San Diego

By Larry Sherman

As we usher in the New Year, it is comforting to realize how much more disposable income each one of us will possess due to the new tax bill legislation. None other than Paul Ryan and Ivanka Trump have promised everything from a booming business environment to the elimination of the national debt emanating from our collective increased spending habits. Mr. Ryan, who indeed has a Bachelor's degree in Economics, does have a non-political employment resume that includes working as a waiter and as a fitness trainer. I am reasonably certain that most local bridge aficionados are willing to accept our new prosperity as a given (just like every finesse wins), and that we simply have to decide how and where to spend our collective caches of cash. Should we attend more club games, purchase more bridge books, take more bridge lessons, hire more bridge pros, go to all of the sessions of the San Diego Sectional tournaments, go to more Regionals and/or NABCs? Maybe one of us will open a new bridge club with our windfall; if so, I have a personal request that you locate it adjacent to one of the new San Diego Trolley stations being constructed. Let's get all our players traveling on mass transit, saving the environment and putting more of the new monies into bridge. That will also undoubtedly help spring up cottage industries associated with the new club, such as a duplicate bridge supply retail store and maybe a bridge dating service. Maybe one of us should build a duplicate bridge partnership business. Hey I could probably do this. Maybe one of us will start an Uber/Lyft type auto service specifically earmarked for duplicate bridge transportation; there could be a local arm of the business for club games and a longer arm for day trips to and from D22 and D23 Regionals. Some of us may not have any additional time to consider the above options, and simply decide to donate their kegs of dinero to San Diego Unit 539. The Unit promises to put said contributions to good use, such as continuing to further your bridge educations prior to our biweekly Unit games. There is just no telling what a boost to local duplicate bridge activity we are about to witness all due to the recent tax bill. The producers of the upcoming duplicate bridge film we learned about at the Fall NABC might want to follow that up with another called "Thank You Mr. Ryan." Some might tune in thinking it a sequel to "Saving Private Ryan", but when the opening scene pans on a classic end play, they will be hooked for the 90 or so minutes of riveting action to follow.

On a sad note just days into this new year, it's with a heavy heart that we learn of Bob Shapley's passing. Without a doubt, Bob was an "A" player, well respected at bridge tables throughout the San Diego area. Beyond that, his wit and banter were prime examples why many of us prefer to play bridge at clubs, as opposed to bridge online. Personally, I never left a round against Bob without laughing about any one of a variety of subjects ranging from the Chargers to the local or national political environment. Our deepest condolences go out to Alana.

We like to listen to comments from our members so that we can improve your experience playing with us. One recent observation was a need to include newer/non-Life Master players on the Unit board. Towards that end, if you are such a player and have a passion for volunteering (the pay is not great and don't ask the boss for a raise, but there are benefits), feel free to approach any of our board members. We hope to introduce one such new board member at our January 21 meeting, but to quote your Uncle Sam, "We Want You".

With bridge players flocking downtown to play at the Fall NABC on the first Sunday, we were limited to one Unit game in December on the 17th. That game was held on the final day of the Palm Springs Regional tournament, but we were still able to attract 16 total tables. Winners in the 12 table open game in Flights A were Freda Anderson - Davis Bennett. Peter Moyer - Mike Koscielski finished first in the B and C strats. We attracted 4 tables to the 999er game, which

was won by Batia Kvashny - Suresh Kanekar. Finishing 1st in Flights B and C were Dianne Belk - Lawrence Calder.

We truly would like you to come play, and in order to encourage attendance at the 999er games, we offer a special deal; for \$30 you can purchase four Unit game entries (\$40 value) plus a \$5 discount at our next Sectional tournament game. Come on, 999ers, that's \$45 of value for \$30.

We are happy to announce that some new milestones have been reached by Unit 539 members: Junior: John Himebaugh, Shawn Speight, Cynthia Warwick, and Don Wemple; Club: Dorrie Cavanagh; Sectional: Patrick Chen and Patric Staley; Regional: Dayle deRaaf; NABC: Harry Arora and Iris Menninger; Life: Barbara Augustine, Albert Folkman, and Gerald Kibbey; Bronze: Barbara Augustine and Harvey Schleifstein; Ruby: Tom Herzog and James Lasswell; Sapphire: Dorn Bishop and Alan Rowen. 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 give a shout out to new members Rita Priver and Andrew Tirrell.

Club News: 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.

The San Diego Bridge Club (www.sandiegobridgeclub.com) offers a weekly game every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Winners from December included Maritha Pottenger - Pat Chapman , Larry Sherman - Steve Seagren, and Bill Grant - Sam Madison.

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.

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.