

Diamond in the Ruff: East Bay Unit 502, July 2021

By Larry Bowerman (lmjtbow@pacbell.net)

Wow, what a long strange journey this has been and probably will continue to be! However, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. The good news is that the vaccines work and that a significant percentage of those people eligible in the Bay Area have been vaccinated! The bad news is that this isn't true everywhere, the vaccination rate has slowed significantly, and variants continue to emerge. Hopefully, the positive progress will continue!

First and foremost, I hope that everyone is continuing to do well, staying safe and enjoying bridge online (on BBO) and/or in-person.

Second, after being closed for 15 months, **the EBCBC re-opened for in-person bridge on June 21, 2021!** Thanks to Betty Kael, Tom Pajak, Sandi Davis and others, whose hard work made this possible. Thanks also for your decision to require proof of vaccination for everyone who wishes to play in-person at the EBCBC. I whole-heartedly believe that this was the correct decision. **The latest game schedule and results** can be found by clicking the "Game Schedule" tab on the left side of the Home page of the EBCBC website. Table fees remain at \$8.00.

Third, Doug Handler's Piedmont Games at 7:10 pm on Monday and Thursday will remain on BBO as Virtual Club games for the time being. In addition, Doug will be starting two new Virtual Club games on BBO at 2:10 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, beginning July 6th and July 7th, respectively. Thanks to Doug for all of his efforts to maintain and expand his on-line games. Table fees remain at \$6.00. If you need additional information, you can contact Doug by phone at (925) 938-4493 or by email at dough0918@aol.com Please continue to support Doug's games on BBO.

Fourth, the next Unit 502 Board meeting will take place on Sunday, August 1st. Among other things, the Board will be considering whether to hold or cancel the November 20-21, 2021 East Bay Sectional, and whether/when to resume Unit Games. If you have any comments on

these two issues, please send them to me and I'll relay them to the Board. Stay tuned for further developments.

As you may know (or surmised), the publication frequency of the "**Diamond in the Ruff**" newsletter is in flux. The most recent information indicates quarterly publication, but that could change as we emerge from the pandemic. Stay tuned for further details. In the meantime, as Joye, Marcia and I write articles, David Snyder will continue to post them on the Unit 502 website.

I'm sad to report that **Lorene Lamb passed away in January, 2021** at age 97! While I didn't know her well, I did play against her a few times several years ago. She was a dedicated bridge enthusiast and worked hard to improve bridge in the East Bay. Her family wrote a nice tribute to Lorene, some of which appears in the EBCBC newsletter dated 6/20/21.

Unfortunately, **Hugh Callahan passed away on June 16, 2021**. Sandi Davis wrote a nice tribute to Hugh which appears in the 6/26/21 EBCBC newsletter.

Welcome to the following new Unit 502 members (since January 1, 2021):

Kumar Fanse, Dave Rosenfeld, Catherine Faust, Becca Laufenberg, Katherine Glaessner, Nancy Scott, and Dana and Robert Cole

Also welcome to the following people who have transferred into Unit 502 since January 1, 2021:

Joy and Robert Schenker, Tim Segall, John Fenker, Andrew Purcell, Patrick Xia, Harold Hayashi, Serena Greening and Dee Kursh.

When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements (since January 1, 2021):

Junior Masters: Ann Belcher, Ann Schuyler, Harrison Pollak, Bert Carelli, Kumar Fanse, Peter Freeman and Dov Rosenfeld.

Club Masters: David Gin, Rosemary Heil, Tim Segall, Nancy Zhu, Gail Arnold, Lois Lybeck Carelli and Nancy Rutledge.

Sectional Masters: Helen Burke, Christine McMahon, Jennie Schacht, Cheryl Brodsky and Charlton Holland.

Regional Masters: Joy Schenker, Frank Silver, Suzanne Quick and Lori Rosenthal.

NABC Masters: Dee Kursh, Don Levine, Ken Rice, Jerry Carrol and Allan McAllister.

Life Master: John McManis.

Bronze Life Master: Herbert Chung.

Silver Life Masters: Elizabeth Silverman and Thomas McGuire Jr.

Ruby Life Master: Shirley Rodenborn and Roseanne Smith.

Gold Life Master: Bipin Patel, Glenn Boyce and Al Goldspiel.

Sapphire Life Master: Norman Marks.

Well done, congratulations and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

Marcia Wasserman will be writing the next column, so please contact her at (marciawasserman@gmail.com) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report. You can also send information to me and I'll forward it to Marcia.