

San Diego – November 2017

By Larry Sherman

Many of us are saddened by the sudden illness and impending passing of a dear friend of ours. The Stop card took ill suddenly in July at the Summer Nationals in Toronto, and the diagnosis is that it will no longer be with us at the tournaments it so very much loved on January 1. ACBL affiliated clubs have been given the option to remove or keep it, and many in San Diego have pre-empted that date by discarding it already. What more can be said about a card that shared a lifetime of companionship with the Alert card? The Stop card also leaves behind a bevy of friends including the Pass, X, and XX cards, and in some locations, the ZT/Play Nice card. Calls ranging from 2C to 7NT were often seen at Stop card's side. Those who did not get to know it well, such as 1C - 1NT, will hear many a story about the havoc Stop card created at the table. Your friends either mentioned you regularly or dismissed you entirely; there was no middle ground. You will be missed but we shall not forget you, Stop card.

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; more details to follow.

The 1st Sunday unit event was our annual Tribute Trophy game. This game features the opportunity for players to remember players who have passed away in the preceding year. This year we remembered Tom McDowell and Jeri Adams. Open game attracted 13 tables.

Winners in Flight A were George and Kathee Bessinger. Lamya Agelidis - Larry Sherman won the B, while Paul Alesu - Bob Brobst the C strat. We attracted 4 tables to the 999er game, which was won by Suresh Kanekar - Baria Kvashny. Finishing 1st in Flight B were Normal and Meenakshi Krishnamoorthy, while Anwar Hafeez - Lynne Anderson won C. Lynne, could you please make your name easier to spell?

The 2nd Sunday open game attracted 17 tables. Winners in Flights A and B were Linda Gu - Tom Herzog. Paul Alesu - Bob Brobst once again won the C strat. We attracted 4 tables to the 999er game, which was won by Normal and Meenakshi Krishnamoorthy. Finishing 1st in Flight B were Gigette and Craig Caldwell, while Penny Herzog - Sam San-Wong won C. 76% of our Unit membership qualify to play in our 999er games. 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: Jan Janecki, Roz King, and Mary Rea; Club: J. Stephen Haine, Lisa Junge, Evangeline Regan, and June Supfer; Sectional: Delynn Kelly and Joan McGuire; Regional: Robert Buchanan, Bonnie Mahan, Bill Osgood, and David Schmidt; Bronze: Elazar Harel and John Howard; Silver: Chris Hastie; Emerald: Paul Darin. Note: Paul's tailor, one Mr. Thomas Bahama, is busy working on a new Emerald design in Paul's honor. It is our understanding that Paul's associate, JJ, will be the benefactor of his former Diamond designs. 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 a new member, Jonathan Stein, to our unit.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. There will be a fundraising effort to support this ongoing cause on Saturday, October 28 at the United Way building's conference center from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Our own Roy Green has volunteered to teach from 11:00 - 12:15, followed by a 30 minute lunch break, and the class continuing from 12:45 - 2:00. The class is earmarked for newcomers to our game, and we invite those of you whose family and friends

have expressed interest in playing to strongly consider this opportunity. To have Roy in our community to introduce the game to potential players is a gift to us all. Feel free to contact Laura Farmer Sherman at laura@sdkomen.org for more information.

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. With the recent demolition of Coco's Restaurant and the staging of fencing surrounding the construction of a new Chick-fil-A, AIB management requests that patrons park in designated spots so as not to disturb neighboring businesses.

The San Diego Bridge Club (www.sandiegobridgeclub.com) offers a weekly game every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. On Oct 31, they will feature a Jane Johnson Club Appreciation game and on Nov 14 a STaC game. Winners from September included Margret Sohn - Roy Shepard, Barbara Blake - Paul Darin, Gigette Caldwell, Jackie Ives - Al Folkman. The club is currently working on improved lighting to be completed in October.

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. This sanctioned game is run by Betty Riedler, who can be reached at 619 276-3476 or bettyriedler@gmail.com with any questions or partnership requests.