

San Mateo Unit 498

March 2018

The Unitizer



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Unit 498

Board of Directors

Message from the President...
Jackie Lowenberg



Jackie Lowenberg, *President*

Janelle Van Rensselaer, *Vice President*

Lorelei Greenfield, *Secretary*

Fran Gaura, *Treasurer*

Ted Richmond, *Immediate Past President*

Loren Charlton, *Director*

Joanne Lewin, *Director, Mentor Program*

Marge Pacchetti, *Director, Unit Game Coordinator*

Marc Renson, *Director, Tournament Coordinator*



Gloria and Mike Halliday, you are the best! Thank you for doing the lion's share of the work, purchasing and distributing our favors. Thank you **Loren Charlton** for always volunteering to help when there's a call. Loren was the first one at Canada on Saturday, and the last to leave on Sunday. **Marge Pacchetti**, you are our Partnership Chair, *extraordinare*. Even out-of-town singletons were taken care of and set up to play. **Mike Dotterweich**, you did a good deed for the Girl Scouts, but then your bringing the cookies to share with our players was the sweetest! **Fran Gaura** and **Cathy Johnson** are another pair who are true blue friends, always pitching in without even being asked, along with **Jo Anne Gates**, **Lorelei** and **Jon Greenfield**, **Bob Johnson**, and **Dee Brown**. **Janelle Van Rensselaer** arranged for caddies, and so many of our members generously pitched in wherever they saw an opportunity to make *The Grove* at Cañada College a most welcoming venue.

The highlight of the tournament on Saturday morning was when two of our Unit

Yes, our **Winter Sectional** was a smashing success! Hearing compliments to the venue and the directors and even the cafeteria was heart warming. It feels kind of funny to thank family for pitching in when they're needed. But how can we not recognize the hours and energy and love that so many of our members gave to make this event a success?

Thank you **Marc Renson!** Marc negotiated the contract with Cañada College; he was there Friday night setting up and Saturday morning, opening up. He helped break down the event on Sunday night, and through all (amassing a Championship's worth of silver points at the same time), he directed our army of volunteers who provided everyone with treats, and pencils, and good cheer all weekend long.

498 members won the **Art Weinstein** trophy in the 99er event! Congratulations to **Gina Wegner and Sharon Sloan** ! You've honored our Patriarch.

The successful event raised our spirits in an otherwise very cold month. We lost a truly venerable friend and bridge savant, **Zak Mohammed**. The distinguished gentleman was always soft spoken, generous, and kind to his opponents, as well as completely giving of himself to us lesser players. He loved the game, and most of all, he loved his cherished **Kate Talbot**. As all could see, Zak adored Kate, as she does him, and they truly made each other complete. May his memory always be a blessing to Kate and to all who learned from Zak.

Just in time for our annual **Ted Richmond Pro Am Unit Game**, on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, the namesake of our favorite event has just become an **Emerald Life Master!** Ted, our immediate past president, is an awesome player and teacher and friend, and we send hearty congratulations to him for his awe-inspiring accomplishment!

We are categorizing "Am's" as our players with less than 500 master points. Team up and join the fun! Of course you can play with your partner of choice, but the contest is more exciting when you're competing with other Pro/Am couples! You can call **Marge Pacchetti** if you need help from our Partnership Chair, and her email is pacchettim@sbcglobal.net. After the game we will have lunch in the patio at Fattoria e Mare. We will be recognizing our 2017 Unit 498 recipients of the **Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs** and **Mini-McKenney Awards**. Come join the fun; we've planned a great game and party to follow.

Jon Greenfield has become a **Life Master**, and we are so proud of him. **Lorelei, Mrs. Greenfield**, should share our warmest congratulations, but though they have the same amount of master points, she joined ACBL after 2010...

We send good luck and best wishes to **Linda Schwarz**, who's leaving the Bay Area for warmer digs, new Barrington Bridge Club friends, and an exciting new chapter of life as a West Angelina. Linda, thank you for the many years of participation on our Unit Board as our Partnership Chair and legal eagle, for your representation at D21 meetings, and for being such a fine friend to newer players. We know you'll be back often to visit and play, but you need to know that we will miss you. Mucho. **XXX**

IN MEMORIAM

Gisela Block
Zakir Mohammed

Remembering Zakir Mohammed July 17th, 1931 – February 4th, 2018

by Robert Ng



The bridge community of the San Mateo/Redwood City (Unit 498) sadly bid farewell to Zakir (Zak) Mohammed, a well-known and respected player in the San Francisco Bay Area for the past 50 years. Zak passed away on Feb. 4th from a severe head injury suffered from a tragic fall at his home in San Mateo. An ACBL Diamond Life Master, Zak was 86.

Zak was born in Lucknow, India. He came to San Francisco in 1968 to join his brother, who was an Indian diplomat stationed in San Francisco. He lived in the city through the 1990s, working and playing bridge professionally.

Zak made his mark quickly in the Bay Area bridge world, forming a highly successful partnership with the late Nell Wells. He also enjoyed playing money bridge, and he worked as the house player for the San Francisco Cavendish Club in the 1980s before it closed. Back then, he was often seen at the club's top table, battling with expert money players like the great Grant Baze, an ACBL Hall of Famer.

Zak was a very fast thinker. He was a great analyst of hands and had a tremendous memory for recalling hands and cards played. He once reconstructed an entire set of played boards in a Swiss team match from memory for the director after the boards were messed up accidentally while being passed, an amazing feat. He had great table feel, developed from years

of tough rubber bridge games. He rarely dwelled on any hand for long. Cards flew out of his hand smoothly when he declared. I cannot remember ever being late in finishing a round when I was at his table, especially when he was declaring the majority of hands.

Zak retired from serious tournament competitions in the early 2000s and moved to San Mateo. He became a regular at the Bayshore Bridge Club in Burlingame CA, devoting his time to teaching privately and playing with students. It was there, in 2002, that he began sharing his life with Kate Talbot, at and away from the bridge table.

As a teacher, Zak was always patient and even-tempered when working with students. He made the game fun and enjoyable for all. He was particularly generous with helping new players, offering advice, and answering their questions cheerfully when asked.

Kate received waves of condolence letters upon Zak's passing. They repeatedly echoed the appreciation for his kindness and generosity from the many new players whom he had helped.

His many friends, past and present, in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, will miss his smile, his sense of humor, his sport stories (Zak was a great Giants fan), and his fierce but pleasant competitive spirit at the table.

Zak is survived by his loving wife, Kate Talbot, who shared the past 15 loving and wonderful years with him.

The Longest Day, 2018

One in eight people aged 65 and older has Alzheimer's disease. Nearly two thirds of Americans suffering from the disease are women. Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and the only cause of death that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed.

For the Last Four Years, **Fred Chasalow** has spearheaded a Peninsula/San Francisco response to the ACBL's call to American bridge players to join the fund raising alliance with the Alzheimer's Association: the *Longest Day*.

This year, **Unit 498 San Mateo** is dedicating an organized effort to support

Fred's work on behalf of the *Longest Day*. Our Unit 498 Clubs, along with Clubs from Palo Alto and San Francisco are forming an alliance to do our part in this noble endeavor. What it will take to make miracles is bigger than all of us, that's true. But we owe it to ourselves, to our families, and to our friends to do our part on behalf of Alzheimer's patients, caregivers and those who are developing a cure.

Along with Fred, **Janelle Van Rensselaer**, **Marge Pacchetti**, **Loren Charlton**, and **Jackie Lowenberg** will be dedicating the next three months to building a fund raising event designed so that **everyone** can find a fun way to participate.

Be on the lookout for our Longest Day Bulletins. We lucky ones will play Bridge and keep our neurons firing; let's do this for those who can't. **Go Team Peninsula!!!**



**San Mateo Winter Sectional
February 24-25, 2018**





Gina Wegner and Sharon Sloan
Art Weinstein Trophy Winners



At San Mateo Bridge Center

Zak Mohammed Memorial Game

Thursday, March 22
Game at 12:30
(Fattoria e Mare)

At Bayshore Bridge Club

Zak Mohammed Memorial Game

Friday, March 9
Lunch at 11:30
Game at 12:15

St. Patrick Day Lunch and Game

Friday, March 16

Lunch at 11:30

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Game at Noon

**Good Luck Luncheon and Game
for Linda Schwarz**

Tuesday, March 20
Lunch at 11:15
Game at Noon

Agnes Lee is offering

Slam Bidding Workshop
Mondays, 03/05, 03/12, 03/19

Mentored Play
Fridays 9:30 to 11:30

Contact Agnes at bridgeuandme@gmail.com
for more information and reservations

New 49er Game
Thursdays at 9:15 AM
Carol Knowles, Director
(Please note new starting time)

At Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club

[Learn To Play Bridge The Fast And Easy Way](#)

Everyone is welcome! Join the fun! You play in a game your very first lesson. Bring a partner or come alone. Meet new and interesting people while improving your mind.

This is your chance for **FOUR FREE LESSONS!** Bring your friends, spouses, and relatives. Enjoy a wonderful pastime. You can learn in just a few weeks, while meeting new friends. Learn bridge the Easybridge! way.

Games held Wednesdays from 9am to 11:30 am at [Fattoria Restaurant](#), 1095 Rollins Road, Burlingame.

[Click For More Information about Easybridge at PDBC and Registration Form](#)

The "I Can't Drive 55" Award Returns for all of March

A 55% game is a great standard for everyone to aim for. No matter what your level, a 55% game is well within your reach.

To add a little extra fun to our Wednesday games at PBDC, we are bringing back the "I can't Drive 55" award. So long as we have at least 5 tables playing in the session, the pair that gets the closest to 55.55% will win two gift certificates for Fattoria E Mare restaurant. Each gift certificate is for \$24.00.

All games with at least 5 tables during March will be eligible. And we will also have this in effect February 28. So lets get a few more tables going and hand out some gift certificates.

75 % Game

Linda Duncan and John Lawton

**Raad Bunni's
San Mateo Bridge Center
Proudly Announces New Game Schedule!!!
at *Fattoria e Mare Restaurant***

1095 Rollins Road
Burlingame 94010

Tuesday and Friday Mornings

Stratified 499'er Game

Lesson at 9:00

Game at 9:30

Lunch available after the game for \$10

Choice of Soft Drink

And Our Newest Offerings:

Monday and Thursday Afternoons

Stratified Open Pairs

\$10/player

Game at 11:30 A.M

Lunch available at 11:00 A.M. for \$5. Soft Drink \$1

No Reservations Required

Plenty of Parking

You Can Play and Avoid the Commute!

For more information, visit www.sanmateobridgecenter.com

Or email Raad at: bridgepals@gmail.com Phone: (650) 954-7757

Jennifer Kuhn

Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club

www.peninsuladbc.com

Wednesdays

**Fattoria e Mare
1095 Rollins Road
Burlingame**

9 AM EasyBridge lessons

12:30 Open Pairs

6:30 Open Pairs

Patti Frederick

**Bayshore Bridge Club
1300 Bayshore, Suite 168
Burlingame**

(650) 344-4919

Open Games

Monday thru Friday at

Noon

Light lunch on Thursday and Friday

Morning Game:

Thursday at 9:15

49er Game (0-49 points)

Carol Knowles, Director

Evening game:

Th (*Barometer*) 7 PM - Will Watson

Our mailing address is:

ACBL Unit 498

5 Crystal Spring Terrace

Hillsborough, CA 94010

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