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San Mateo Unit 498

December 2018

The Unitizer



Join us for the Unit 498 Holiday "Swiss Team" Game!

We are going to have a Swiss event so gather your team now!!

9:30 - Registration

10:00 - Game Start (Matches 1&2)

12:00 - Holiday Lunch

1:15 - Game (Matches 3&4)

Entry Fee - \$10 Unit 498 Members/**\$20** Non-Unit 498 Members -
"Includes Lunch"

Hosted by Janelle Van Rensselaer and Marge Pacchetti

Please RSVP with

- 1) Team Captain
- 2) Your Team Members' Names

Please RSVP

janellevanr@janellevanr.com or pacchettim@sbcglobal.net



Jackie Lowenberg,
President

Janelle Van Rensselaer,
Vice President

Message from the President...Jackie Lowenberg

Dear Members,

It is bittersweet for me to be writing this last column of my term as president of U498, but here goes.

We had a wonderful Annual Meeting and November Unit game this month. Thank you to **Raad Bunni** for directing three sections without a hitch. And thank you to **Janelle Van Rensselaer** and **Marge Pacchetti**, coordinators, extraordinaire!

Lorelei Greenfield,
Secretary

Fran Gaura, Treasurer

Ted Richmond, Immediate
Past President

Loren Charlton, Director

Marge Pacchetti, Director,
Unit Game Coordinator

Marc Renson, Director,
Tournament Coordinator

At the Annual Meeting, I committed a big *faux pas*! Due to a list of her other accomplishments, I forgot to thank **Fran Gaura** for writing the Unit 498 column for the now defunct *Bridge Forum* and for the current online monthly, *Diamond in the Ruff*. This takes time and dedication, and her columns are fun to read and up to the minute in local news. Thank you Fran!!!

Our holiday party and game on Saturday, December 15 will be a blast: we are going to make it a Swiss game, played partly in the morning; stopping for a holiday lunch, and finishing the last matches after lunch.

Of course the bar will be open to continue the celebration after the scores are announced! Our gift to our members of Unit 498 is that we are only charging \$10/player for game and lunch party. Non-unit members will be charged \$20. Still a bargain!!!

The following comments are from my President's Report at the Annual Meeting. Every word came from the bottom of my heart. It's been an adventure, and the friends that have joined me in it have made it all a memory I will cherish.

"The BOD of Unit 498 has experienced a synchronicity of purpose and vision since we took office in May of 2017. Our mission was to make San Mateo county a go-to hub for great bridge games, opportunities to learn technique and theory, and to have a safe place to play where no tolerance games are the expected standard. At our Unit and Club games played here (*Fattoria e Mare*), good sportsmanship and camaraderie are the only behaviors that are modeled.

On this note, I would like to announce an award for bridge geniality and good sportsmanship. The **Joseph Schmitz Award** was named for a Unit 498 pillar and gentleman who passed away many years ago. When **Marc Renson** played in college, he remembers Joseph Schmitz in the 70's and 80's as a highly respected bridge player with a wonderful demeanor. **Raad Bunni** played with Mr. Schmitz in the '90's and remembers him for his manners and warmth. "He always welcomed players to his table and was glad to offer tips and answers to players' questions". As Raad described, Joseph Schmitz was an ambassador of bridge. This year we have chosen a highly worthy recipient of the award. Our candidate is always a model of friendliness, good manners and level and smart thinking, and we are delighted to name our past president, **Ginny Wailes**, the 2018 recipient of the Joseph Schmitz award.

To start with a clean slate in 2017, our first project was tackling the Bylaws of the Unit. We revised them and brought them into compliance with ACBL requirements. Committee chair, **Janelle Van Renssalaer**, along with **Marge Pacchetti, Loren Charlton, Fran Gaura, Lorelei Greenfield** and **I**, spent countless meetings and enjoyed endless debates over every section of the document. One of the first changes we made was to our fiscal year. We are now in sync with the tax year, from January 1, thus our Annual Meeting is now held in November, since December is for parties. Janelle rewrote the document to record our deliberations too many times to count. The 2017 Revision of our Bylaws was finally ready for prime time and offered to **Ed Freymoyer** and **Jim Van Ness** for their parliamentary and editorial approval. The Board unanimously accepted the document that you can now view on our website. Today the 2019 Board of Directors will be installed to begin their term on January 1.

With encouragement from **Robert Ng** to reinstate our Unit Mentor Program, and with the participation of many great teachers, here is another facet of our mission we are truly proud of. Due in large part to the effort of director **Jennifer Kuhn**, and along with her committee, **Raad Bunni, Marc Renson, Lorelei Greenfield, Loren Charlton, Janelle Van Rensselaer**, and **I**, Jennifer has infused excitement and professionalism into getting the party started. We have five more night games in this session, which started off with 13 tables on October 25. We know the program will continue to expand as the mentees and mentors equally enjoyed the event, each in their own way. For beginners as well as advanced it is a non-confrontational learning experience and a gentle competition for Unit sanctioned points.

For us, bridge isn't life or death. It's more than that. Yes, that's a joke, but the truth is, our lifestyle does require more than playing the game. **Fred Chasalow** was onto something big when he introduced the Longest Day fund raiser to the bridge players in Burlingame five years ago, but last year, when Janelle, and Marge, and Loren, and I heard his call, we engaged Unit 498 to follow his lead.

We are a community and this community was easy to channel into a critical mass. Yes, we did it, and in June of 2018, with the participation of damn near every one in this room, we contributed over \$15,000 toward the Alzheimer's Association's partnership with ACBL.

In one month, we will again acknowledge our good fortune and do what we can for the unfortunate who will never again play bridge or recognize their children or know the grief they cause their loved ones. On December 21, we will observe the Shortest Day of the year by electronically sending you the nascent program for 2019's Longest Day fundraiser and pictures and the annual donor report from the 2018 campaign.

To those of you who were lucky enough to win the opportunity to play with a Pro, or join a party, or partake of a cruise or a vacation, or win a gift offered by your fellow bridge players, please give back by talking it up, sharing your

experiences, and supporting our effort next year. Without exception, we all got back way more than we gave.

Also due to your generosity, we were able to fund the needs of our volunteers of the Peninsula Youth Bridge Program. **Jeanne Kwong, Mary Bates, and Janelle**, our lead teachers, along with volunteers **Cathy Johnson, Fran Gaura, Vaughn Patterson, Irv Agaard, Camille Wanat, and Joanne Lewin**, loyally spend at least one afternoon a week after school at three of our local San Mateo high schools and Bayside middle school in Foster City. These dedicated volunteers walk the walk when they talk about a better future for bridge.

We hope that you agree that our move to Fattoria e Mare has given us success upon success. The lunches, dinners, brunch and pizza night have been great. The location is so easy, and the management has been exceptionally hospitable to us. Thank you to Justin, Michael and Chef Pablo for a great partnership! **We invited all of our Club owners to come over to a clean and convenient new location for bridge, with no added worries and much less overhead.**

Jennifer and **Raad** listened, and they have been instrumental in building our Unit's strength over the last 18 months. Thank you's seem inadequate to these two who have been great magnets for new players, old friends and rock solid support for all of our goals.

Speaking of new players, **Debbie Carey** has hit the ball out of the field with infusing excitement for Duplicate to her friends and social bridge partners. Today we have seven tables playing in a 0-20 game, and we welcome you all, and wish you bridge enjoyment for a lifetime.

Mary Bates, what a lady! She designs, edits and publishes our Unitizer every month, and this monthly magazine becomes more snazzy with every edition. Mary has been our web master, and this year she has brought www.Unit498.com up to date with links and information on all of our club and unit activities. Thank you a million times, Mary. And thanks again to **Jim Van Ness**, our silent partner, who dots the I's and crosses the T's! **Sally Samuels** has been a gem, updating our Directory every month, and we thank you Sally.

There are so many people who answered every call for assistance, and offered their advice, and support every step of the way. Thank you for your friendship: **Robert Ng, Mark Sorenson, Cathy Johnson, Gloria and Mike Halliday, Roger Dewes, Fred Chasalow, Al Malouf, Bob Johnson, Nancy Chapman, and Sandra Tilch**. Did I forget to mention that **Bob Johnson** found our location at Fattoria e Mare?

Now I look to our Board, some of whom will retire at the end of the year. You have been such incredible friends, and each of you have my affection and respect. Please come up here when you are called. Thank you to **Ted**

Richmond, our immediate past president and chairman of this year's Nominating Committee. Thank you to our retiring secretary and committee member **Lorelei Greenfield**. Thank you **Joanne Lewin**, continuing director and Peninsula Youth Bridge volunteer. **Loren Charlton**, we thank you for continuing as a director and thank you for all of your effort and participation on the Bylaws, Mentor, and Longest Day committees. Thank you retiring director **Marge Pacchetti**, the catering arm of our Unit game team and 2018 and 2019 chair of the Raffle committee for the Longest Day.

Thank you to **Marc Renson**, our retiring Tournament Coordinator. Marc's stewardship of six Sectional tournaments in the last year and a half enhanced our reputation for great games in our region. He has been a pleasure to work with, and I am so grateful to Marc for providing us with invaluable lessons from the past to improve our future. Thank you Marc. Continuing director, **Fran Gaura**, darling, thank you for being a great treasurer, unit game registrar, and Bylaws committee member. **Janelle Van Renssalaer**, our veep, made herself available for every committee, as well as taking a leadership role in all of our projects, including but not limited to The Longest Day. My right arm, and sometimes both arms, I can't thank Janelle enough for her support.

To all my friends, I thank you. The last 18 months have been everything from anguish to exhilaration: Sort of like getting yourself into 6NT doubled. And making it! Thank you!"

November Unit Game Saturday, November 17, 2018





Congratulations to Mark Sorenson!





Mark Sorenson, ACBL National Goodwill Person of the Year

Mark has been chosen by ACBL as the winner of the Aileen Osofsky National Goodwill Award !

This honorary title is given to the ACBL member who has exhibited unselfish dedication to the causes of good conduct, worthy participation and ethical behavior.

The following is an excerpt from Jackie's *Unit 498 Nomination Letter*:

"Refusing pay for his efforts, he has become a director to help his friends who own our clubs. He comes to club games to play with those without a partner, no matter what playing level is required. In his soft-spoken way, he calms the nerves of beginners with encouragement and support, and he provides challenge to players with advanced skills.

After a particularly challenging game, he often sends help to his mentees: his own charts of conventions and responses, play of the hand tips, review of complicated plays – whatever he perceives the partner/student needs to advance his understanding."

But this is not all. When one of our long time members was demising from emphysema over the course of many months, Mark provided her with a menu, including many choices of incredible hot meals. He cooked for Nancy and brought her dinners approximately three times a week—a half hour drive each way from his house. They weren't previously social friends, but Mark knew that Nancy needed nutrition and friendship. He provided her with a gift of life for months.

Recently another lady in our unit took a fall that required assisted living for some time. Of course, she was surprised and delighted when everyone's favorite Mark came to sit and spend some time with her. This is just another of many examples of his thoughtfulness and kindness.

Mark's love of the game and our bridge community is only surpassed by his love of his wife and bridge partner, Danna, their children and grandchildren. A true humanitarian, Mark can be described by a popular Randy Newman lyric: you've got a friend in me.

To your health and happiness, Mark. Thank you for being such a fine human being. And thank you for being a bridge player and a Unit 498 member, so that we all have the privilege of crossing your path in life."

Mark has been invited as a guest of ACBL to attend the Goodwill meeting at Memphis in March. Watch for his picture in the *Bridge Bulletin*! Congratulations, Mark! Unit 498 is very proud of you!

November 70% Games

Eugene Sor and Marcus Ballinger 74%
Ed Hornung and Virginia Wailes 72%
Carole Ringoen and Loretta Baines 71%

News from Unit 498's Clubs

Patti Frederick
Bayshore Bridge Club
1300 Bayshore, Suite 168
Burlingame
(650) 344-4919

Upcoming Mentor Games:

Thursday, December 20

All games start at Noon preceded by a light lunch

Please contact Ted Richmond if you need a mentor or a mentee:
tedteddyr@att.net

STAC Games
Every Afternoon
December 3-7

Open Games

Monday thru Friday at Noon
Light lunch on Thursday and Friday

Morning 49erGame:
Thursday at 9:15
Carol Knowles, Director

Chinese American Bridge Club at Bayshore Bridge Center

Upcoming Games at Bayshore:

Saturday, December 8 at 10 a.m.

STAC Game

Potluck Snacks

Please contact Edie at frogeyw@comcast.net
to let her know what you are bringing

Saturday, January 19 at 10 a.m.

Saturday, February 9 at 10 a.m (barometer)

Saturday. March 9 at 10 a.m.

Jennifer Kuhn

Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club

www.peninsuladbc.com

Fattoria e Mare
1095 Rollins Road
Burlingame

Upcoming Mentor Games:

Thursday Evenings at 6 p.m.

January 31, 2019

February 28, 2019

March 28, 2019

April 25, 2019

PDBC's Regular Games

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. EasyBridge lessons
12:30 Open Pairs
6:30 Open Pairs

Thursdays

9:00 a.m. EasyBridge lessons
12:30 Open Pairs

Raad Bunni's San Mateo Bridge Center

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

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

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