

MARCH 24, 2023 UNIT 508 BLAST

OUR POPULAR MARIN SPRING SECTIONAL 2023 is fast upon us. The dates are April 22 and April 23 at Redwood High School. Judy Leedy and Ann Schweichler are running the show again this year, with Arti Bhargava doing the partnership desk. We are hoping the tournament will, as always, be a fun weekend for all. To make it so, **YOUR HELP is vital**. We need volunteers to:

- **Help set up on Friday evening.**
- **Help break down at the end of play on Sunday.**
- **In the morning, checking players in at the doors, making sure they have their proof of COVID vaccination.**
- **Bring snacks to share.**
- **Loan us two large coolers.**
- **Pick up ice on Saturday morning and Sunday morning.**
- **Set up and take down the street direction signs both days.**

This year, as last, we are not offering lunch, but with your help, we'll have plenty of food to nosh on. We encourage you to bring your own lunch instead of going out to a restaurant so you can get back for the afternoon session in time.

Ann is the person to contact for volunteers, 415.290.3048 or ansschweichler@gmail.com. **Arti** Bhargari is doing the partnership desk, 415.305.9347 or abhargava@compasslexecon.com. **Judy** is handling any other questions, 415.336.6468 or jbleedy46@gmail.com.

Click [here](#) to see the flyer.

UNIT 508 CLUB GAMES NEWS:

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING UNIT GAMES:** **This Sunday, March 26** and **Sunday, April 16** both at **1:00 p.m.** and **Friday, April 28** starting at **noon**. Then in May, we have two games, **Sunday, May 14** and **Sunday, May 27**, again, starting at **1:00**. Join the fun and earn extra masterpoints. Coffee and munchies available.
- **FULDEK GAMES:** **Next week is the last week in March** when Henry's Fuldek Games are **Club Championship games**. For the same \$10.00 bargain price, you can **earn extra masterpoints**.

SPOTLIGHT ON VERONA CORMACK-THOMPSON (In her own words): I was born in a land-locked country just north of South Africa, which claimed at one time to be the “breadbasket of Africa” due to its prosperous and outstanding agricultural success. It was called Rhodesia, a colony of Britain at the time. Now it is the independent country Zimbabwe.

The sights, sounds and smells of Africa remain a significant part of my most precious memories: vast stretches of land as far as the eye can see, covered in a variety of rich vegetation; the unique smell of the first summer rains falling on winter’s parched and dry soils; the daily cacophony of bird calls blending naturally into an orchestral performance. These all make up my Rhodesia! The wild life, bird life, brilliant sunsets, Kariba dam fishing adventures, the smells and sounds, thunder and lightning storms. I could go on and on. Suffice it to say “Why not add it to your bucket list?” You won’t be disappointed.

The most exciting little holiday we took was a four day canoe trip down the Zambezi river. We did not see another single human being! As we rowed slowly along, in the waters alongside the river bank we viewed many elephants bathing their babies plus every species of deer. We were constantly on the alert for any crocodiles or hippos approaching from a distance. And we enjoyed the inevitable bird life that filled the air with varied and enchanting songs accompanied by the constant screech of cicadas. We slept in tents on the sand banks beside the river, enjoying the many sounds around us, plus the canopy of the night sky filled with the brilliance of the moon and stars. We found shallow, shelving sandbanks to wash, where once again we would be on the alert for crocodiles. It was beyond exhilarating! Wonderful memories.

My older sister and I grew up in small towns and attended boarding school from a very early age. I went on to qualify as an Infant Teacher and taught at a number of schools throughout Rhodesia, the United Kingdom and South Africa. I eventually started my own little school (preschool plus grades one, two and three) and kept it going for 11 years before we left the country. I called it "The Little School House". What an absolute joy it was to me - the fulfillment of what seemed to be an impossible dream. I had about 34 children ranging from 3 to 8 years old, with the help of another teacher plus 2 extra pair of hands. It was an amazing success which I considered to be the pinnacle of my teaching career. I really loved that venture!

A young and (even though I say so myself) handsome rancher who I met near our family's ranch became my husband. After a picturesque marriage on our ranch, we settled down to ranching life ourselves, and to raising our three children. After Rhodesia's independence our family moved to South Africa to ensure that our children completed their schooling and college education.

My husband and I returned to Zimbabwe in 1991 in an attempt to develop our "dream farm" in the Eastern Highlands of the country. Politics thwarted our attempt. In 2003 we returned to South Africa while waiting for resident permits that would enable us to come to the US and join our daughter, who was married and settled in Tiburon.

In Tiburon I was fortunate enough to meet someone who introduced me to bridge which resulted in an exceptional love of the game but more importantly in the making of a circle of very special bridge friends! I would advise my fellow players to enjoy each and every challenging session with the cards, and to remember the classic saying: "It's just a game!"

Despite a long and difficult road, both my husband and I feel extraordinarily blessed to have finally settled in this beautiful part of America. Thank you to all of you Americans (which we too now proudly are) for giving us a second home in this incredibly lovely part of the world.

FACE-TO-FACE GAMES IN MARIN, \$10. *No food being offered.* Proof of up-to-date Covid vaccination and booster required.

FULDEK BRIDGE CLUB, Terra Linda Community Center. Director: Henry Kingdon, h_kingdon@yahoo.com or 415-572-9458. Coffee and tea offered.

- Mondays, **499er** game, 12:00-3:00 p.m. **No partner required.** 18 boards will be played.
- Wednesdays, noon, **OPEN.** Terra Linda Community Center. Please come with a partner.
- Thursdays, **Newcomer Bridge, 0-20 masterpoints,** at Strawberry Recreation Center, Mill Valley, 12:30-3:00 p.m.

DAVID'S BRIDGE CLUB, Belvedere Community Center. Director: David Blohm, David_blohm@hotmail.com or 415-332-9548 or 415-272-8329. (If fewer than eight players show up to play, he is offering a **one-hour question-and-answer session at the end of play.** The table fee will cover this learning session.)

- Thursdays, 11:00 a.m., **<4000 MP** game. (If adequate attendance.)
- Fridays, 11:00 a.m., **<4000 MP** game. (If adequate attendance.)

TERRA LINDA CLUB, Terra Linda Community Center. Director: Peggy Strong, strongpeggy100@gmail.com or **415-299-7511.**

- Fridays, noon, **OPEN** game.
- **VIRTUAL GAME on BBO, BB\$6.** Monday morning, **0-2500 MP**, 11:40 a.m., 18 boards, BB\$6. Go to <https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/> and find the game under "Virtual Games." The results of this game are posted on our website here under Terra Linda games.

MENTORING PROGRAM: *Don't forget to contact Cindy Blum if you want to volunteer to be a mentor or want to be mentored. Her contact information is (415)518-6415, or email her at cynthiackb@comcast.net.*

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

- **March 31-April 2:** *Palo Alto Bridge Club Open/NLM Sectional at the Palo Alto Bridge Club. Flyer and further information not yet available.*
- **April 3-9, 2023.** *San Diego Regional Tournament. Click [here](#) for more information.*
- **Apr 22-23, 2023.** *Marin Unit 508 Spring Sectional. Click [here](#) to see the flyer.*
- **May 20-21, 2023.** *San Mateo County May NLM Sectional. Click [here](#) for more information.*
- **May 29-June 4, 2023.** *California Capital Regional at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento. Click [here](#) to see the flyer.*

USEFUL LINKS:

- Our Website, where you can find this newsletter: <https://marinbridge.com/>
- Unit 508 Facebook page, click [here](#)
- District 21 Website, click [here](#)
- District 21 Facebook page, click [here](#)
- District 21 Newsletter, Diam♦nd in the Ruff, click [here](#)
- Unit 508 BBO Quick Reference Guide, click [here](#).
- Bridge Clues website for daily bridge hints: Click [here](#) to get to the website.

Judy Leedy, Blast Editor and Sectional Chair, Marin Unit 508, ACBL