

SCBC Jan - Feb 2025

Newsletter

Bi-Monthly Issue #1

District 21 Unit 550

Santa Cruz Bridge Center

2450 17th Ave Suite 200

Santa Cruz, CA

95062

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2024 Annual Holiday Party, Feast, & Dolores Abrams Memorial Game

Our Annual Holiday Party followed by the Dolores Abrams Memorial game was another smashing success. Dolores Abrams, a Life Master was a director, teacher and benefactress of the Santa Cruz Unit. Each year the club celebrates her generosity by giving a free game to the members in her name. Top scorers of the game have their names inscribed on the THE DOLORES ABRAMS plaque.

The Board of the Directors takes this opportunity to include the entire membership in the annual Board Meeting, recognize outstanding member achievements, host a brunch and a game, all free to members.



*This year, with the suggestion from Heather MacGregor, perhaps we could save money and ask for volunteers from the membership to cook the meal. Thanks to our members, Lani Ray, whom the Friday before, set the tables with centerpieces, prepared the rice salad, and picked up dinner rolls; Kristin Smith made the scalloped potatoes, Joanne Bruno, the green salad, Nancy Pringle, the fruit salad, Leslie Davidson the quiches, and Heather prepared the scones, cinnamon rolls, pies, cheesecakes and apple bundt cakes. Steve Smith did the Costco run for the hams, orange juice, wines and champagne. Sam O'Neill and Cindy Sedey set up and Darby Kremers, Farol Henderson, Jacci Sterling, Linda Downing and Ken and Shirley Llacera stepped up to clean up the center. With coordination and direction from Heather all went smoothly. The **food, camaraderie and games** were **FANTASTIC!** The game is two sections, an Open game and a 299er game; many thanks to director Ken Llacera. As one can glean from the pictures, everyone enjoyed themselves.*





MERRY
CHRISMUKKAH



Dolores Abrams Memorial Game Winners 12/7/2024

Open: Heather MacGregor - Gary MacGregor 68.0%
299er: Craig Smart - Sam O'Neill 63.3%

Welcome our new Members to Unit 550

Lyn Kondrot

James Van Campen

70% Games 11/12/24 to 01/16/25

Alok Mohan - Nancy Mohan 11/25/24 70%

Hitting new Heights

Nandar Vadas - New Junior Master

Susan Pearce - New Section Master

Lori Pelc - New NABC Master

**Kristin Smith - New Silver Life
Master**



Member's Corner...

getting to know Lani Ray

Born and raised in Bakersfield California, Lani was very close to her large Italian family. Together they enjoyed Sunday dinners cooked by her Italian grandmother and all from scratch. In her freshman year of high school, her family moved to Santa Cruz. If you know Lani's friendly smile and attitude, you know she fit right in at Santa Cruz High School. What teenager wouldn't love living here in the early sixties heading to the beach after school, bonfires, music and parties in a sleepy surf town. Lani has lived in Santa Cruz on and off for twenty five years.

Lani attended San Jose State after graduating from high school. Living in a sorority house, she received her degree in Social Sciences and minored in Child Psychology. Her idea was to become a Social Worker. She moved back to Bakersfield after college where she taught school for a year, awaiting employment as a Social Worker. Lani was disillusioned with Social Work after witnessing the status of child welfare in Bakersfield.

While on a holiday in Hawaii, she became reacquainted with and then married one of her childhood friends. As an Ensign in the Navy, he was transferred to Japan and they lived there as newlyweds. She describes that time as one of her life's best experiences meeting great friends and visiting Far East countries. She and her husband have two children, a boy and girl. They have three beautiful grand children.

Returning from the Asisan Pacific, Lani dabbled in real estate. She assisted in building and selling a housing development. She saw an opportunity to manage for Avon, the company for women, and accepted a district sales manager position. Before long she oversaw and managed four districts: Bakersfield, Stockton, Santa Cruz/Salinas and Carmel/ Monterey. After seventeen years, frazzled and exhausted, she retired and moved back to Santa Cruz, where her son was living.

Lani started playing bridge at age nine or ten when her elder cousin would have her sit in as a fourth. Her mother would also have Lani play when she needed a fourth. Lani played a lot of bridge in college. Her sorority housemother and she played competitively against other sororities and fraternities. While living in Japan, she played bridge with the naval wives. She took lessons from better players when she returned to Bakersfield. Other groups from Bakersfield started including her into their games. Lani's competitive spirit was challenged when she a friend decided to tackle the duplicate game.

Lani has been a member of our Santa CruzBridge Club for fifteen years.

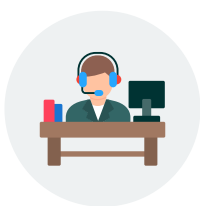
The socialization is what makes Lani the happiest about playing bridge. Being social and networking is important and healthy for seniors.

Her advice to beginners is to remember it's just a game. "Don't let the bad boards get you down. Don't take it too seriously, take mistakes in stride. The best players make mistakes too. Have fun enjoy the friendship and competition".

There are a few funny experiences in Lani's bridge memory. One was attending the two famous tournaments in LA and Pasadena. Living in Bakersfield, she went South to play in the bigger tournaments. Stars and athletes all enjoy bridge and many turned out for these tournaments. There was a gentleman whom she and her friends always looked for. He was dressed like 1970's Elvis in white spandex and rhinestones. Talk about being distracted!

Another was a famous athlete who was an avid bridge player. He wore cashmere, and played elegantly and drew a crowd. He was so tall, the people standing around him, watching his play, were shorter than he, when he was sitting.

Lani has played bridge all around the world. The bridge world includes lessons, new friends, travel, funny & wonderful stories. Lani's most memorable tournament was in Bermuda. People were dressed to the nines, it was a chance to see and be seen. She highly recommends trying to play in an international game.



WEBSITE 



Tech Tok

Rising Stars Sectional Tournament

March 8th and 9th

Santa Cruz Bridge Center 2450 17th Avenue, Suite 200
in Santa Cruz!

Please register early! From your computer, tablet or phone, type in
santacruzbridge.org.

The website features the Rising Stars Sectional logo, as below.
Just click and register!



Click the logo
to register!



**The Clambake
Monterey
Regional 2025**



Many SCBC Members won gold and red at the Monterey Tournament held Jan. 6th - 12: To see who placed and earned gold, please visit the acbl tournaments website for all results:

live.acbl.org

select Regional Results

Locate and click on

Monterey, California

Find the day played and type of game played, i.e. **gold rush** or **Swiss** or **bracketed teams** or **pairs - mid flight top flight - 499er - side**

Congratulations to All who placed and those who played

RIISING STARS

Tournament

March 8 & 9, 2025

Santa Cruz Bridge Center

**2450 17th Avenue, Suite
200**

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SILVER POINTS AWARDED FOR ALL EVENTS

***All players with less than 750 MPs may play in this sectional**

Strats based on average; Director may modify strats based on attendance

Saturday

10AM & 2:30PM**

Stratified Newcomer Pairs 0-20 20-50 50-100 mps

10AM & 2:30PM**

Stratified Pairs 0-200. 200-400. 400-750

****Single-session games, players may play either or both**

Sunday

10AM**

Stratified Newcomer Pairs 0-20 20-50 50-100 mps

****Single-session game**

Luncheon sandwich orders taken at check-in.

10AM***

Stratified Swiss Teams 0-200 200-400 400-750 mps

*****2 sessions; play through with short lunch break; 20 VP scale**

Luncheon sandwich orders taken at check-in.



Tournament

Director

Greg Vance

Sanction# 2503365

Chair

Farol Henderson

(831) 325-6781

Partnerships

John Wesolowski

(831) 332-4498