

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

We've Done it Again.....

The Silver Rush NLM sectional was a smashing success. In our first ever attempt to have a one day sectional for only the non-Life Masters, we were bursting at the seams with attendees.

Thanks to Grant Robison for masterfully directing a very large group; and to Randy Corr who helped during the early morning rush; to all those who provided goodies and kept the trays full, Bruce and Sharry Johnsonbaugh, Anne Hollingsworth, Lisa Assoni and Dori Dolgin; to Pete Boss for designing an excellent flyer, which certainly reached a lot of people; to Beth Eggers who kept track of all those who signed up, which turned out to be a much bigger job than anticipated; and finally to Ted Gunn who did an excellent job as Tournament Chair. This was Ted's first assignment as a Tournament Chair. Ted, you may have found a permanent job.

We are not resting on our laurels. Our next tournament is the annual Veteran's Day Fall Sectional, which will be held on November 8th and 9th at San Ramon Valley High School. We hope to see all of you there at least one day. The details are found on flyers at all the clubs or at diablovalleybridge.com, and elsewhere in the newsletter.

Trisha O'Connor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
From The Editor	2
Unit 499 Milestones	3
Flyers	4
Sectional Help	5
Board News	6
Letters to the Editor	6
In Memoriam	8
Youth Bridge	9
Mentoring Program	10
Improve Your Game	11
Club News	13
Tournament Results	17
Swiss Schedule	18

Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@pacbell.net

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November 2014

Deadline for December is November 15th

...from the editor

Be sure to read:

[New Dates for Saturday Swiss Team Games](#)

[Tunnel Tourney Article](#)

[10 Things Bridge Players Would Never Say](#)

[Mentoring Program Article](#)

Those are just highlights of the many articles and flyers in this issue. I hope you will read every word!

Judy Keilin
Editor

jkeilin@pacbell.net



To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at
jkeilin@pacbell.net

Mary Krouse, Publisher



Be sure to visit the unit website for more information on our clubs and events, as well as archives of our newsletters.

diablovalleybridge.com

Unit 499 Milestones

*** NEW JUNIOR MASTERS ***

Jean Kitchens
William D Schmicker
Linda L Virden

*** NEW CLUB MASTERS ***

Jane W Durie
Audrey K Fujie
Helene R Gordon
June L Mailman
Jean A Whitman
Kathy A Wolf

*** NEW REGIONAL MASTERS ***

Richard A Long
Gerard F Milano
Susan H Schlicht

*** NEW NABC MASTERS***

Rudy Gebert
Mariann Kessler
Tosh Kuritsubo
Jim Raby

*** NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS ***

Randy Corr

*** NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS ***

carol warner

Diablo Valley Fall Sectional



Salute to Veterans

Nov. 8th & 9th, 2014

San Ramon Valley High School
501 Danville Blvd., Danville, CA 94526

Presented by Diablo Valley Unit 499 (<http://diablovalleybridge.com>)

Saturday, November 8th

10:00 AM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 1)
(0-750/750-2000/2000+)

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)
299er (0-50/50-100/100-300)
99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

3:00 PM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 2)
(0-750/750-2000/2000+)

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)
299er (0-50/50-100/100-300)
99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

* Games and strats will be adjusted based on attendance.

Sunday, November 9th

10:00 AM & TBD: Bracketed Swiss Teams. Brackets posted at tournament. **Teams must play both sessions.** 7 rounds/7 boards (lowest bracket plays 7 rounds/6 boards). 20 VP Scale for all brackets. Brackets based on team masterpoint average. Teams may elect to play in top bracket.

Table fees: \$10 per session (non-ACBL or unpaid members \$13)

Tournament Director: Nancy Boyd. ACBL Sanction #: S1411087

Tournament Chair: Anne Hollingsworth (925) 934-3149, scootcat@pacbell.net

Partnerships: Partnership desk available at tournament. Also, use Unit 499's Google Group to find a partner: <http://groups.google.com/group/bridgepartner499>

Food: Refreshments Saturday & Sunday.

Directions: Take I-680 and exit onto El Cerro Blvd., turn west on El Cerro approx. 0.4 miles to Danville Blvd. Turn left onto Danville Blvd and drive 0.2 miles. San Ramon Valley High School is on the right.

FOOD REQUEST FOR OUR SECTIONAL

It's that time again! Most of you know that we will be at the San Ramon Valley HS on Danville Blvd in Danville. We hope you are planning to play.

Our Fall sectionals have been great successes the last few years, in large part due to the wonderful food contributions made by our members. We are once again asking for donations to make this tournament as yummy as the past tournaments. The last few years, we have asked people for donations that are a bit healthier than in the past:

Savory- cheese, veggie trays, dips with veggies, finger sandwiches

Sweet- fruit, cookies or brownies (I like to think of those as healthy too)

We realize that this is right after Halloween and that many of you will have left over candy. That is ok, too. Please feel free to bring it.

If you are able to bring a contribution for Saturday or Sunday, please contact Pam Edgley- pamelaedgley@yahoo.com or call her at 925-208-1694.

Please let her know which day you will bring something (which helps us determine how much we need to purchase) and what category it will be. You don't have to specify the dish, you could just say- cheese and crackers or fruit and nuts.

We appreciate your past donations and look forward to seeing you at the tournament, with or without some goodies.

See you at the Sectional!
Anne Hollingsworth
Diablo Valley Fall Sectional
Tournament Chair



OUR NEW BOARD!

Welcome One & All...

The board of Unit #499 would like to welcome three returning board members and four new members. The returning crew includes Bruce Johnsonbaugh and Judy Keilin, both starting their third terms and Anne Hollingworth who begins her second term.

Our new members include Rich Alhf, who has already signed on to be Publicity Chair and Bob Barnes. They became board members a bit early, due to two resignations by board members. Additionally, Mike Kruley and Chuck Manning will start their duties at our meeting on 12/21.

You may have noticed that we didn't have an election. We had seven people running for five positions. Then, two current board members resigned. Serendipitously, we had enough folks who were willing to serve to fill our seven vacancies.

Congratulations to all!

Trisha O'Connor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD!

I would like to express my thanks to our Board. The past several years have been an amazing time for our Unit, thanks to the tireless efforts of our Board. They have worked constantly to grow our Unit and to make it one of the best! From new tournaments (tunnel tourney, what a great idea!, NLM tournaments) to youth bridge, mentoring programs, new website, new newsletter, they have done a spectacular job. Who knows what else they have in store for us! Our sectionals always are well attended and receive high accolades from our guests. These devoted members have put in countless hours above and beyond what is expected of them to enhance our bridge experience.

Well done!

Mary Krouse

We are thankful for you!



We welcome and encourage your contributions. To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at

jkeilin@pacbell.net

TUNNEL TOURNEY

In January of 2013, the idea of an Invitational Tournament between our unit and another unit in the area was suggested at a board meeting. Anne Hollingsworth contacted some neighboring units, and Unit 502 accepted the invitation.

In 2013, we hosted a two-session game, which was won by Unit 502. A plaque was ordered, and was on display at the Oakland club.

On September 29, Unit 502 hosted the game, with a lovely lunch. Unit 499 won the Tunnel Tourney so the plaque has been returned to our side of the Caldecott Tunnel! Hoorah!

The unit winner was determined by top players in each of the strats for each session from each of the clubs. Our strat winners were:

Strat A - Manfred Michlmayr and Jack Scott; Dan and Linda Friedman

Strat B - Andy Fine and Beth Eggers; Keith Gunn and Glenn Boyce

Strat C - Michael Kruly and Jacob Rosenberg; Carroll Brooks and Marj Russell

Strat C - Sylvia Allen and Marcia Wasserman; Barret Clack and Steve Russell

Two of our pairs took the top overall positions - Overall 1st place pair winners were Manfred Michlmayr and Jack Scott (winning 7.23MP), with Dan and Linda Friedman (winning 5.42 MP's) finishing second.

A big thank you to all of those from the Unit who came to Oakland to play! And next year - we'll be back at DVBC to defend the plaque and do our best to keep it on the east side of the Tunnel.

Anne Hollingsworth



Some of the contributors to our win: L to R: Jack Meng, Lynne Humphrey, Carroll Brooks, Trisha O'Connor, Marj Russell, Judy Keilin, Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth

IN MEMORIAM



My friend Jack Scott died Sunday. He was enjoying watching his grandson play soccer and had a hemorrhaging stroke, effectively destroying his brain.

Doctors kept him on life support until his organs could be harvested to help others. Jack was a good guy to the very end, and then beyond.

Jack had a successful career as a programmer--he chose to be an independent contractor because he never wanted to manage anyone else, just to do his job well and go home to his wife and kids.

As a bridge player, he was one of the best, although too modest to admit to his own strengths. Jack played with Bruce Tuttle on the team that goes to Gatlinburg every year, and they could be counted on to bring back good scores. He shared the house with us, but was more likely to go to his room and read than stay up and obsessively go over the hands card by card--he just played them well and moved on.

His funeral will be Tuesday, November 4 at 11 am. Sunset View Cemetery, 101 Colusa Avenue, El Cerrito. Don't send flowers, sign up to be an organ donor.

Chris Pizarra

YOUTH BRIDGE



These photos were taken at a recent Unit 499 Youth Bridge session. This program is FREE for youngsters 10-25 years of age. The sessions are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 6:15 to 8pm at Diablo Valley Bridge Center. The emphasis is on having fun while learning to play bridge. Pizza and soft drinks are provided.

If you know of a youngster 10-25 years old who might enjoy this program, please contact Bruce Johnsonbaugh at [925-766-7586](tel:925-766-7586).

Our Unit 499 Youth Bridge program is grateful for the continuing support of Iris Libby, who has allowed the program to use Diablo Valley Bridge Center without charge.

Thank you Trisha O'Connor for taking these photographs!

Thank you Ted Gunn for your assistance in instructing the youngsters!

Bruce Johnsonbaugh
Unit 499
Youth Bridge Director



MENTORING IN UNIT 499

This is a program subsidized by our unit and designed for players who have a minimum of 100 and no more than 299 master points. Life Masters help these intermediate players progress in their game. Once a mentor is assigned, the partnership will play six games together in local clubs in our unit at dates and times of their mutual choosing. The mentor will receive six free game coupons, good at any Unit 499 bridge club, while the mentee pays the normal club game fee. Following each game, the mentor reviews the bidding, play of the hand and defense from the game that day. This review can be done immediately following the game, by phone or email. My preference is for immediate, post-game review, when the hands are freshest in both players' minds, and each has a copy of the Hand Record.

The guidance and constructive feedback can make quite an impact in helping advancing players. Some possible goals the mentee may choose are:

- To feel more comfortable playing up,
- To mix and get to know more players,
- To understand table etiquette and proper behavior
- To understand director rulings
- To explore basic conventions,
- To solidify bidding understandings
- To recognize one's weaknesses and gain strength
- To recognize one's strength and receive encouragement.

If you would like to volunteer to mentor for this program, or would like to play six games with a mentor, please contact Unit 499 Board Member, Andy Fine, at AFine963@aol.com. Any mentee can feel free to contact me to find a mentor, or you may contact a specific mentor, if you'd like. We are always looking for new mentors!

The Main Goals of the Mentoring Program from the Unit perspective are to increase new player retention, and to increase overall Club attendance.

Andy Fine (afine963@aol.com)

Mentoring Program Director

Improve Your Game

Declarer Play

Looking at the hand to the right, determine your line of play before reading the Solution. You are South.

You open 1♦, partner responds 1♠, East joins in with 2♥, you make a support double showing three spades (a raise to 2♠ shows four) and suddenly you find yourself playing 6♦! West leads the ♥5; East wins the ♥A and returns the ♥Q, West following with a *higher* heart. How do you proceed? Both follow to the first diamond.

NORTH

♠	A K 9 3
♥	9
♦	K 10 9 6 2
♣	A J 10
♠	J 10 2
♥	K 7 3 2
♦	A Q J 8
♣	Q 9

You have no convenient discard from dummy on the ♥K, so do yourself a favor and ruff the second heart, noticing West's second heart is higher than the ♥5, indicating three hearts. The play now revolves around the best way to tackle the black suits for no losers. Clearly, if either finesse works you make your slam, but which one to take? Surely you are not going to fall for that question any longer.

Start by drawing two rounds of trumps and leading the ♠J hoping for a cover. West may cover hoping partner has the ♠10. If the ♠J isn't covered, win the ♠A and cash the ♠K hoping to drop the ♠Q. If you do, you won't need the club finesse. If you have no luck in spades, return to your hand with a trump and run the ♣Q, your last chance.

Congrats. You didn't put all of your eggs in either basket. You worked with spades hoping to drop the ♠Q, not to mention giving West a chance to err by covering the ♠J. And all the while you had the club finesse in reserve.

Did you notice West's lead of the ♥5 from ♥865 in partner's *unsupported* suit? If West had *supported* hearts, and therefore was known to have at least three of them, the ♥8 would have been the proper lead. After supporting, the lead of the ♥8 should not be confused with a doubleton.

Tip:

Pay attention to the spot card led so when a second card is played in the suit you will know whether it is higher or lower than the first.

The West hand: ♠ 8 7 5 4 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ 8 6 4

The East hand: ♠ Q 6 ♥ A Q J 10 4 ♦ 5 ♣ K 7 5 3 2

The hand above is taken from *Take All Your Chances at Bridge*, by Eddie Kantar, by permission of the publisher, Master Point Press.

10 Things a Bridge Player Would Never Say

- Our club's playing area is always at the right temperature - never too hot or too cold.
- Free coffee? No thanks.
- Cool! A 4 board sit-out.
- No. I don't think the tournament fees are too high.
- I can always count on my partner to remember every convention on our card.
- No matter which direction we sit, we always get good cards.
- Great. More new alerts!
- No gossip, please. I'm not interested.
- One thing I can say about bridge players, "They sure know how to dress."
- I don't feel like bridge today. I think I'll jog and work out.



Club News

This section is for club owners and managers who wish to submit news about their games. Please go to our website for information about all our clubs, game times, and to check on the latest results.

Diablovalleybridge.com



ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club

Rossmoor

SWISS TEAMS

There will be a **Swiss Teams** game on Saturday, November 15, at Rossmoor in the Oak Room at the Gateway Center. Two of the four-member teams must be Rossmoor residents. Play will start at 12:30pm.

Membership

Rossmoor residents may join the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club during the months of November and December for the remainder of 2014 for a fee of \$1. This is a great time for bridge players who want to try out duplicate. Club members pay only \$3 per game versus \$7 for nonmember guest. Please tell your bridge playing friends at Rossmoor about this great opportunity.

New Club Manager at Rossmoor

Michael Gosnell is now the Club Manager at Rossmoor, replacing Judy Lowe, who resigned in September.

DIABLO VALLEY BRIDGE CENTER

2920 Camino Diablo, W. C., SUITE 100

CALL: 925-935-2273 or 925-943-2273



What a beautiful month October has been -- and a very active month at DVBC.

October was Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month (Jane Johnson was a stalwart employee at the home office of ACBL for many years. These games were established to honor her). What it means for players is: EXTRA awards in higher masterpoints, but without any extra fees! Hurray! We are allowed to hold one game for each sanctioned session, and we have eleven sanctioned sessions each week. We have held partnership and Swiss Team games, including Winnie and Jerry's Saturday Swiss Teams.

On October 16, we held the ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game, with the possibility of Gold/Red/Black points. You might recall that, last year, the booklets never arrived (bummer). This year, however, all necessary supplies arrived in ample time, and following Judy Lowe's Thursday morning 999er Unit game, she and I provided a hearty lunch for both morning and afternoon players. We had twelve tables in the afternoon, and here are some of the winners: First N/S, Linda Bandler/Robert Pastor - 56.52%; E/W Brad Komsthoedt/Lorin Waxman - 63.21%. Each added 2.13 GRB Masterpoints to their MP Bank. You can check all the results on the Unit Webpage.

October also served up the second Tunnel Tourney, held at the East Bay DBC in Oakland. Yahoo! Unit 499 won this year and DVBC is proud host of the very nice plaque. It will be hung soon, placed symmetrically.

The Diablo Valley Bridge Center is, officially, on the market. The lease, which I will honor, runs until March 31, 2016. I will "close" on a condominium in downtown Cincinnati on November 15, 2014. I will consider any reasonable offers that include the dollars I have invested in the center.

Owning DVBC has been a labor of love. I have become very invested in the players and feel quite protective of all of you. It gives me joy to see a full room of enthusiastic, cheerful players enjoying this challenging and somewhat addictive game. There is little more to do to make it one of the nicest clubs you will ever enter.

I hope that whoever takes on the responsibility of maintaining DVBC will derive as much satisfaction as I have! Meanwhile, COME AND PLAY!!

Iris Libby

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge club will meet in November 2014 as follows:

- Wednesday, 11/5
- Tuesday, 11/11
- Wednesday, 11/19
- Tuesday, 11/25

Games always begin at 7 p.m. and finish about 10. Fee is \$2 per player. ACBL Open Club, with Master Points. Hand records. YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE with: Winnie Jasper (winnie@wjasper.com) for Wednesdays, or David Geary (dsgeary@comcast.net) for Tuesdays.

We meet at the Moraga Country Club, upstairs. On St. Andrews, a short distance from Moraga Way.

Recent results:

9/17 - 4 pairs

- 1 - Winnie Jasper & Patty Perry
- 2 - Maxine Winer & Joan Sopher
- 3 tie - Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 3 tie - Nancy & Lew Voils

9/23 - no game held

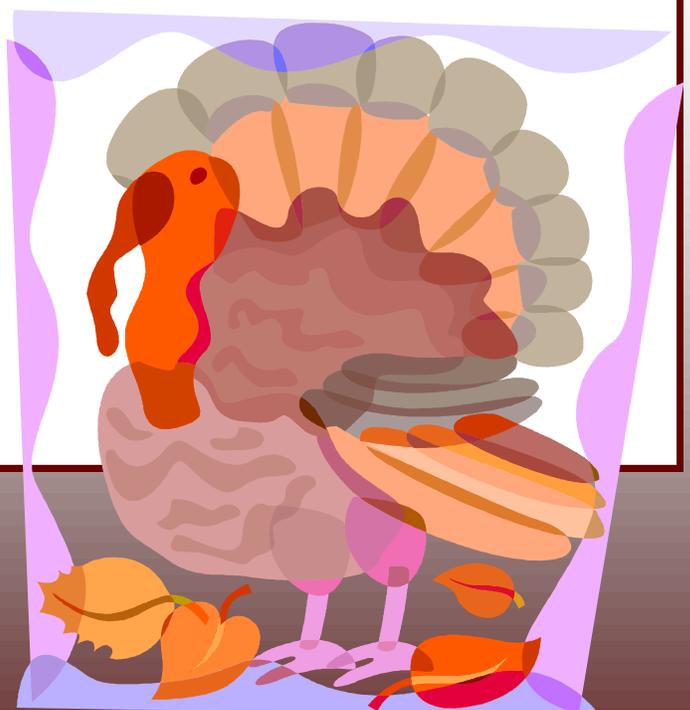
10/1 - 4 pairs

- 1 - Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 tie - Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 2 tie - Nancy & Lew Voils

10/7 - 4 pairs

- 1 - Judy & John Sherwood
- 2 - Colleen & David Geary
- 3 - Sue & Shyam Rungta

Regards, David Geary



DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

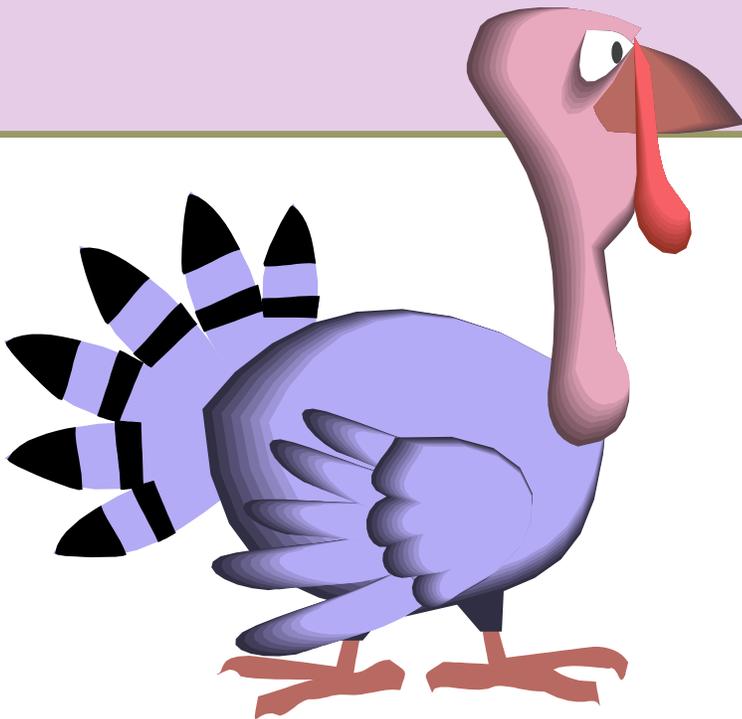
Veteran's Hall
Hartz Ave, Danville

Effective immediately, the Friday morning game in Danville has a new upper limit of 1500 MP.

On December 10 the Danville Friday game will move for the day out to Oak Hill Park community center located at 3005 Stone Valley Rd. just before Monte Vista High School. The actual entrance to the park is on Glenwood Ct. which is right at the city limits sign on Stone Valley Rd.

I am exploring the possibility of starting a Tuesday afternoon open game in Danville. It would be held in the Vets Hall, Senior Center, at 1pm. I am interested in hearing from anyone who would like play in an open game at that time. If I get enough positive feedback, I will go ahead and start it. Please email dvbst@hotmail.com with your thoughts about such a game.

David Sterling



Tournament Results

Here are top finishers from our unit at recent events:

BCoM NLM Sectional

Marina, CA (Sept 6-Sept 7, 2014)

Sat Aft NLM Pairs - Barbara McKay

Diablo Valley NLM Sectional

Walnut Creek, CA (Sept 20, 2014)

Sat Morn 99er Pairs - Audrey Fujie, Joann Yata

Sat Aft NLM Pairs - Steve Nelson, Jim Raby

Sat Aft 99er Paris - Robin Bollinger, Robert Elgie

Tunnel Tourney

Oakland, CA (Oct 5, 2014)

While not a sectional or regional, this was a bridge duel between our Unit 499 and East Bay Unit 502. Unit 499 was the winner this year, so the plaque will be on display at DVBC. A big congrats to the first place overall winners, Manfred Michlmayr and Jack Scott, and second place overall winners, Dan and Linda Friedman.

Anne Hollingsworth



- **SWISS TEAM EVENTS at DVBC** •
- **THIRD SATURDAYS** • February through October • 2015 •

Game Time: 12:30 PM

Light Lunch Served at 12 Noon

\$40/team

The Game will be Handicapped per directions on ACBL SCORE to give teams with lower master-point totals a boost when playing against more experienced players, OR strati-flighted if enough teams enter to accomplish this.

LIMITED TO 24 TEAMS

Please make a reservation in advance on

The sign-up sheet at DVBC

Or contact Jerry Chamberlain

JERRY@WJASPER.COM; 925-766-5228 (CELL)

Names • email and/or phone of team captain

NEED TEAMMATES OR A TEAM?

WE WILL TRY TO MATCH UP PLAYERS

Game Dates for 2015:

February 21

March 21

***April 11*(Second Saturday due to Unit 499 Sectional)**

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17