



# Kibitzer

Palo Alto Unit 503

Volume XXXIV, Issue I

January 2006

## Have Fun at the Unit Game—Sunday, January 15

What better way to start the year out right than to play in the Unit Open Pairs Stratified game on Sunday, January 15 at 1 p.m. Get out of the cold and rain and come to the Bridge Center for the warmth of friendship of your bridge friends. Greet them with a smile! As usual, there will be name tags and hand records. Contact John Hornback at 650/962-1109 [johnback2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnback2@sbcglobal.net) for further information.

## Greet the Day with Early Bird Bridge



Come join us for *Early Bird Bridge* at the Bridge Center starting Thursday, January 12, 2006.

If you enjoy bridge but don't have a lot of time and/or have trouble rounding up three friends for a social game, come join us for a relaxed game of duplicate. It's the same great game, all you need to do is show up -- with or without a partner. We will start promptly at 9:00 and you'll be out the door no later than 11:15. Parents who have children in school should find this is a perfect fit. Cost: \$7.00 per person. This game is limited to people who have fewer than 100 masterpoints. Claire Coleman or Gabriella Bowling will direct.

Call Debbie Romani at (650) 851-9673 or [dzromani@aol.com](mailto:dzromani@aol.com) regarding Early Bird Bridge on Thursdays.

## Unit News

**Sectional** Kudos to Alan Cummings for securing a new home for the 2006 Firecracker at the Santa Clara Westin, the same site as the All Western. We will have lots of space, an excellent room rate, and several new games. We need VOLUNTEERS! Contact John Hornback, Tournament Chair, [johnback2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnback2@sbcglobal.net), (650) 962-1109.

**Lessons** Frank Smoot and Lori Spaeth are happy to report that 12 tables of beginners are currently taking the "Play of the Hand" class (Audrey Grant series). The third in the four-part series, "Defense," starts on February 2.

**New Year's Eve Game** Due to lack of interest, there will be no New Year's Eve game.

*Seasons Greetings from the Kibitzer staff and contributors:*

*Elinor Tanck,  
Lori Spaeth,  
Alan Templeton,  
Ethel Worcester,  
Jim Turner,  
Gersh Wheeler,  
Tom Snouse,  
Barbara Sonsini,  
Ruth Ann Lynch,  
Liz Blum.*



## Bridge Bonanza

Free for all! Bridge, food, wine all for free! Players enjoyed the festivities at the Unit party on Sunday, December 4 at the Bridge Center. There were 37½ tables including seven in the 199ers, 7½ more than last year. The open winners were Pat and Robin Chambers in Strata A, Vandana Vidwans and Rajeev Gupta in B and Michael Callahan and David Tuo in C. Rita and Mark Herbach took the prize in the 199ers with Robert Bergey and Shirley Streifer capturing the C title.

The players donated a flock of toys to the Toys for Tots campaign. Chef Chu's catered a delicious buffet of Chinese entrees with more than enough food for all. Barbara Sonsini organized the event, Will Watson directed the game, Chuck Lane coordinated the wine and soft drinks and Mary Ann Larkin and Claire Coleman decorated the Center. Alan Cummings was responsible for the set-up and the cleanup crew included Liz Blum, Lori Spaeth, Louise Doying and Gabriella Bowling in addition to the Chambers. Sorry if we missed anyone.

Joan Von Gehr presented a gift from the players to Claire and Duane Coleman, in appreciation for their unending efforts in making the Bridge Center a pleasant playing facility. Thanks to everyone for coming and contributing to a successful 2005 for the Palo Alto Unit.



These are just some of the brand new toys contributed by Unit members to benefit "Toys for Tots."

## Newcomers

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Chod Delong, Ancy Anne Fletcher, Robert Healy, Robert Prevaux, Shirley Streifer and Kathy Wheeler. Hello, to Michael Andrews, Judi Carollo, Etta Herbach, Susan Johnston and Barbara Rothkin, who recently transferred into the Unit.

## Letter to the Editor

Please stay home when you have any flu type, respiratory or cold symptoms. This includes a tickle in your throat, when you are trying to suppress a cough with an obvious congested chest. I know no one wants to miss bridge or disappoint their partner, but they need to consider older players have lower immune systems. And goodness knows, we are all older.

Many Thanks,  
Anonymous

## Player Advancements

The ACBL December report shows that the following players have moved up. Congratulations!

<u>Junior Master</u>	Marilyn Rasdal
5MP	
<u>Club Master</u>	Ginger Johnson
20 MP	
<u>Bronze LM</u>	Louise Doying,
500 MP	Franklin Gonzalez

*Many thanks to Robin and Pat Chambers who have kept our Bridge Center neat and clean for several years. It was a huge savings for the Bridge Center and we greatly appreciate their efforts. We have hired a maintenance service to take over their duties as of December 11, 2005.*

## Hamish's 10 Ideas to Improve your Game (part 1 of 2)

Lori Spaeth has been after me to write an article for you, the members of the Palo Alto Unit. She gave me the leeway to choose my own subject. I decided to write on ten points which may help you in both improving and enjoying your duplicate bridge games at the club or your social rubber bridge at home or after golf.

My first five points concern the mental or "ambiance" attributes for winning bridge. The last five, which will appear in a future issue of the Kibitzer, are more helpful in improving your technique.

### Point #1 A Good Attitude

Try to be optimistic. Feel confident that your finesses will work; that the trumps will break. This gives confidence to your partner and no help to your opponents. When I notice a pessimistic declarer looking at dummy, it gives me heart that we might beat this contract. During the game, if things go wrong, put it behind you. Similarly, if things go really well, put that behind you too. Thinking about the last hand causes loss of concentration on the present hand; this leads to mistakes. It helps if you get a good start to the game; so try hard to be sharp at the beginning. A good start helps "your attitude."

### Point #2 Try to be a Partner that can be Trusted

This is very important especially in competitive auctions; i.e., part-score battles or when the bidding gets to the five-level or higher. The questions that cross my mind in these situations are "does my partner have her values?" or "Was her two-level overcall sound?" "Does she have a reverse?" If you are known as being a sound bidder, your results will improve. You will qualify as "my kind of partner." This "trust" applies critically whenever you are on defense. Are you sure that your partner is following your carding methods? Have you discussed when to give count, when to show attitude or suit preference? Good partnerships trust each other's card play. It solves the problem "do you trust your partner play or is declarer false carding?"

### Point #3 Be Sensible and Reasonable

Bad boards occur when a player "takes a shot." Frequently, you bid (say) a game that goes down one or two tricks. I always look at the dummy and ask myself "is this a reasonable contract?" If it is, others will be in it and down one will be average or even better, if some go down two. If it is not reasonable, down one will be close to a bottom board. Being sensible applies particularly on defense. On opening lead against (say) a 1NT - 3NT contract, do not try to "hit a home run" with Kx, Axx, J87xx, 10xx by leading the spade king. It "may" work but you will get a poor result if it does not. Fourth best of your longest suit is a time tested method that is "sensible" and usually best.

### Point #4 No gimmicks

K.I.S.S or "keep it simple, stupid." I really like to play the "Yellow Card" with new or strange partners. Many love to have the latest conventions on their card to cover certain situations that occur "once in a while." These players have a collection of crutches upon which they rely, and hope to confuse the opposition into mistakes. Usually they just confuse themselves. I am not an advocate of (complicated) conventions

*(continued on page 4)*

## It Seems to Me, by Gersh

In your bidding box there is a red card marked "STOP". This card is used to prevent transmission of unauthorized information. Consider the problem. Your opponent opens the bidding with a preempt or makes a jump overcall. If you pass immediately, your partner knows you don't have much to think about. Alternatively, if you hesitate and then pass, your partner knows you have some points but no clear overcall.

The stop-card solves the problem, if used correctly. If you are about to make an opening bid at a level of two or more or are about to make a jump overcall, first place the stop-card on the table. Then make your bid. Leave the stop-card on the table for at least ten seconds to give your opponent time to figure out whether to bid, pass or double. When you return the stop-card to the box, your opponent can then make a call without hesitation.

If your opponent uses the stop-card, begin your thinking when he bids, not when he picks up the card. Now you can make your call as soon as he picks up the stop card.

You do not have to use the stop-card, but the ACBL has specified that if you use it for some bids, you must use it for all preempts or jump bids.



## Hamish's 10 Ideas (continued from page 4)

I use those that help to establish game going values at a low level, e.g. 2 over 1, xyz, two-way new minor forcing and fourth suit forcing to game. In my classes I have found students who use methods different to mine but have the same principle. Inverted Swiss versus Jacoby 2NT is an example. We may discuss the pros and cons, but I tell the class that, if (say) Inverted Swiss works for them, keep on using it. Likewise, Flannery and Puppet Stayman do not work for me. I have never had a problem of bidding a hand with four spades and five hearts; thus, no Flannery. Puppet Stayman over 2NT may have value, but usually if I have a five card major and open in No Trump, my hand looks like a no-trump and not a suit contract hand. Also, opening 2NT with a five card major often is a "slam-killer" when slam in a minor suit may be available.

Point #5 Finally, in this section; "Be a good Partner"

Try to be encouraging when things go wrong. Everybody makes mistakes. Your partner feels badly when he or she does something wrong. So, it is your job to forget it and make sure your partner does too. Bridge is like golf; when you shoot a double bogey, you have to recover and make a few pars and, hopefully, a birdie or two.

*Look for Part Two in an upcoming issue.*



# October 2005 Winners' Circle



Daily game results are at [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com)

## Sunday

### Sunday Aft. BC

- 6 K. Talbot/Z. Mohammed  
(C) G. Joel/G. Paris  
(ABC) C. Lazarovici/A. Desu
- 13 Unit Game
- 20 (AB) M. Foos/M. Fleischer  
(C) C. Lazarovici/B. Nene
- 27 C. Lazarovici/M. Larkin  
C. Davis/E. Tanck  
(B) M. Moore/A. Cummings  
(B) M. Payne/N. Cadwell

## Unit Game

### December 4 - Open

- A1 P. & R. Chambers
- A2B1 V. Vidwans/R. Gupta
- A3 S. Greenberg/D. Rothschild
- A4 B. & B. Luttrell
- A5B2 G. Leitstein/L. Blum
- A6 K. Humphrey/H. Farhi
- B3C1 M. Callahan/D. Tuo
- B4 F. Miller/R. Husain
- B5C2 J. Williams/J. Schwartz
- B6 M. Foos/M. Fleisher
- C3 R. Luik/G. Bowling
- C4 J. Sheppard/B. Coyle

### Under 200

- A1B1 E. & M. Herbach
- A2B2 F. & J. Rappaport
- A3B3 J. & W. Stern
- A4B4 J. & M. Lucid
- C1 R. Bergey/S. Streifer
- C2 M. Koop/L. Perry

## Monday

### Bridge Mix

- 7 H. Solleder/T. Bowman  
(AB) B. Hirsekorn/D. Wheeler  
A. Levy/H. Blume, Jr.  
(B) F. Lubais/M. Moore
- 14 G. Wheeler/M. Brabb  
(B) M. & M. Jeshion  
D. Nemiro/H. Bennett  
(B) A. Cummings/A. Templeton
- 21 P. & R. Chambers  
(B) K. Shaw/G. Herrick  
(AB) A. Cummings/A. Templeton  
(BC) G. Spaeth/J. Stuart-Smith
- 28 P. & R. Chambers  
(BC) G. Wheeler/M. Brabb  
B. Sonsini/P. Saunders  
(AB) G. Leitstein/K. Shaw

### Sherie's Monday Game

- 7 J. Adamiak/E. Gove  
R. Scheidtman/G. Paris
- 14 A. Pagin/M. Moutoux  
J. Lundquist/R. Smadi
- 21 R. Palmer/A. Wolman  
L. Welch/K. Kelly
- 28 H. Sung/J. Brandon  
M. Bray/D. Halden

## Tuesday

### Alpine BC

Not Submitted

### Tuesday Noon BC

- 1 D. Doolittle/D. Stowell  
(B) F. & M. Rappaport  
(AB) G. Joel/N. Rude  
N. Nilsson/J. Carollo  
(B) B. & L. Berg  
G. Bowling/R. Luik  
(B) J. Rose/J. McCullough
- 8 (AB) C. & R. Johnson  
F. & S. Charney  
(B) T. Aberg/J. Cook  
(C) K. Kulander/L. Johnson  
(AB) J. McCullough/J. Rose  
(C) C. Karnos/M. Herbach  
(AB) R. Scheidtman/N. Rude  
(C) J. & R. Smith
- 15 D. Hornback/A. Wallace  
(B) C. & R. Johnson  
T. Hall/J. Franke  
(B) A. Wolman/J. Bower  
J. Blake/S. Lubeck  
(B) J. Williams/T. Stevens  
J. Keehan/E. Kates  
(B) A. Rado/M. Seymour  
J. Dammann/B. Kates  
(B) C. & R. Johnson  
A. Mollard/B. Liddicoat  
(B-Tie) A. Wolman/M. Payne  
(B-Tie) Y. Kano/E. Lissner
- 29 M. Thompson/O. Tangney  
(B) E. Tromovitch/S. Hollon  
(C) C. & R. Johnson  
(AB) T. Stevens/J. Schwartz  
(C) P. Ingman/P. Reeser  
G. Bowling/R. Luik  
(B) G. Spaeth/M. Atherton  
(C) J. McCullough/J. Rose  
(AB) B. Scott/K. Burnett  
(C) J. & R. Smith

### Tuesday Night BC

Not Provided

## Wednesday

### Bridge N Brunch

- 2 S. Blum/H. Bennett  
J. Flocks/E. Hermann
- 9 J. Rollin/A. Stagner  
J. Flocks/N. Cadwell
- 16 H. Narasimhan/W. Watson  
G. Joel/D. Ryan
- 23 P. & R. Chambers  
B. Chu/N. Wang
- 30 M. Van Tamelen/G. Wheeler  
S. Blum/H. Bennett

### Wed. Aft. 49er

- 2 C. Lemm/M. Slade  
D. Dunlap/D. Peterson
- 9 S. Sevey/L. Brauner  
L. Faulkner/M. Stewart
- 16 R. Martin/A. Bialson  
B. & W. Sturtevant
- 23 A. Bialson/L. Sheehan  
L. Faulkner/L. Johnson  
P. & P. Mock  
M. & M. Lucid
- 30

### Lori and Sue's Doubleton Club

- 2 (AB) A. & D. Foti  
(ABC) C. Lazarovici/K. Nedeltchev  
M. Andrews/C. Pryor  
(AB) H. Szejnwald/W. Summer  
(C) N. & T. Cadwell  
D. Dybdahl/L. Lee  
S. Lau/C. Prael
- 9 G. Macgregor/T. Gokcen  
(B) N Li/J. Gu  
J. Stanczak/S. Cagnina  
(AB) P. Cornelius/F. Gonzalez  
M. Zwiers/A. LeCesne Byrne  
D. Dybdahl/L. Lee
- 16 (AB) S. Malek/F. Gonzalez  
P. Kueffer/L. Spaeth  
(B) C. Baeuerlen/G. Ciurczak  
M. Maltz/M. Ryan  
D. Dybdahl/L. Lee
- 23 J. Stanczak/S. Cagnina
- 30 (AB) S. Malek/F. Gonzalez  
J. Stanczak/S. Cagnina  
(AB) D. Fecher/R. French  
M. House/S. Miller  
D. & K. Puryear

## Thursday

### Thursday Aft. BC

- 3 (AB) B. Ross/C. Macey  
(AB) S. Liebhaber/S. Waki  
(C) E. Edwards/M. Atherton
- 10 G. Wheeler/L. Corbetta  
(AB) J. & M. Morrison  
(AB) L. Spaeth/B. Nene  
B. Hirsekorn/P. Saunders  
(AB) E. Yankowitz/R. Jacobs  
P. & R. Chambers  
(AB) A. Cummings/R. Lachman  
(BC) L. Blum/K. Shaw
- 17 L. Corbetta/M. Berg  
(B) M. & T. Randolph  
(AB) M. Diamond/B. Baxter  
(AB) H. Macdonell/H. Sung  
(AB) G. Herrick/D. Bernstein
- 24 Closed

### Sherie's BC

- 3 E. Ehrman/C. Weiler  
F. Carlson/J. Hornback  
J. Carollo/N. Nilsson  
S. Lipson/S. Zimmerman  
S. Greenberg/N. MacKay  
M. Moutoux/A. Pagin  
A. Natrass/M. Soltz  
R. Luik/G. Bowling
- 17 D. Foti/F. Omori  
A. Pagin/M. Moutoux  
S. Hollon/M. Atherton  
F. Charney/J. McNeil
- 24 Closed

## Friday

### Easy Bridge

- 4 L. & M. Zatz  
B. Thayer/V. Howard
- 11 C. Hatching/E. Van Campen  
L. Tanner/W. Thayer
- 18 B. Morgan/Elena A.  
J. Blood/A. Grindon
- 25 B. Thayer/A. Bialson  
B. Morgan/V. Howard

### Friday Morning BC

- 4 T. Bowman/D. Wheeler  
(AB) A. Cummings/S. Morley  
(B) C. Fay/C. McGorvin
- 11 M. Van Tamelen/L. Corbetta  
(B) D. Wheeler/J. Robinson  
(AB) D. Hornback/F. Bao
- 18 B. Nene/M. Hafezi  
(C) G. Joel/L. Mattis  
(AB) R. Kilner/M. Kelly  
(C) R. Pollak/N. Nilsson
- 25 D. Bernstein/L. Spaeth

### Friday Night Barometer

- 4 D. Dang/R. Gupta  
G. Magregor/J. O'Neil  
(B) N. Li/J. Chen  
(B) X. & P. Cheng
- 11 (AB) J. Verson/T. Moalem  
H. Hunninger/S. Lorvan  
(B) M. Yancey/S. Castellino  
(C) J. Pugh/J. Stein
- 18 H. Solleder/J. Stanczak  
(B) J. Chen/N. Li  
(AB) M. Yancey/M. Imaoka-Yancey  
(ABC) N. & T. Cadwell
- 24 (ABC) C. Lazarovici/B. Nene  
R. Ritz/B. Langlois  
(B) T. & D. Fiero

## Saturday

### One Club

- 5 (AB) C. Lazarovici/D. Kuo  
P. & R. Chambers  
(BC) N. Nilsson/R. Pollak
- 12 S. Blum/H. Bennett  
(B) F. Miller/R. Singer  
R. Passal/J. O'Neil  
(B) A. Cummings/P. Tsu
- 19 (AB) C. Lazarovici/D. Kuo  
M. Andrews/M. Moore  
(B) N. Wang/P. Tsu
- 26 B. Krop/E. Barlow  
(B) C. Lazarovici/D. Kuo  
(BC) D. & F. Weener  
(ABC) N. & T. Cadwell



DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE
MON	Bridge Mix	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Kevin/Bonnie/Claire	
	Sherie's Monday Game	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sherie Greenberg	
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Cameron Cotton	
	Tuesday Night BC	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Judy/Michael	New Owners! Pizza served!
WED	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sherie Greenberg	
	Wed Aft. 49er	<50 M.P.	1:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<20 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	Ends by 9:45 p.m.
THUR	Early Bird Bridge	<100 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Coleman	Ends by 11:15 a.m.
	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Beardsley/O'Leary	
	Sherie's BC	Open/Strat.	12:30 p.m.	Sherie Greenberg	4000 Middlefield Road, Auditorium, Palo Alto
	Beginning Bridge Lessons	♦ Series	7:00 p.m.	Frank Smoot	
FRI	Easybridge!	<20 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Carla Davis	
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Claire Coleman	
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Beardsley/O'Leary	
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	

**All games take place at 2639A Terminal Blvd., Mountain View unless otherwise noted.**

Directors:

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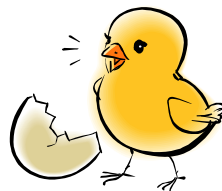
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<http://www.paloaltobridge.com>

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## Upcoming Events

**Regional**, starting Monday, Jan. 2-8 at Hyatt Regency, Monterey  
**Unit Open Pairs**, Sunday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m.

**Sectional**, Saturday, January 28 at Hart Middle School, Pleasanton



**Next Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 3:45 p.m.**  
**Bridge Center**

Palo Alto Unit #503  
 c/o Jim Turner  
 418 Gilbert Avenue  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

TIME VALUE—DATED MATERIAL

### Palo Alto Unit 503 Board:

Dave Bernstein  
 Liz Blum  
 Gabriella Bowling  
 Claire Coleman  
 Alan Cummings  
 Louise Doying  
 John Hornback  
 Chuck Lane  
 Gloria Leitstein  
 Barbara Sonsini  
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