



Kibitzer

Palo Alto Unit 503

Volume XXXXIV, Issue 10

October 2006

Unit Seeks More Candidates for Election

You still have time to place your name on the ballot for the 2006 Unit Board election set for December 3. Four incumbents, Liz Blum, Gabriella Bowling, Alan Cummings and Dave Wheeler seek reelection. Martie Moore has also graciously agreed to become a nominee. The Board has seven open positions; six two-year terms and a one-year term. Therefore, the Unit needs at least two more members to complete the slate

Members, especially those who expressed an interest in serving on the Board in the Unit survey, should feel free to contact any Board member about a desire to help the Unit in this manner. The November Kibitzer will feature the candidates photos and bios along with the ballot and voting instructions.

Here Comes the Swiss Sunday, October 15

The Swiss will be invading the Bridge Center. Form a team and join the competition at the Unit game on Sunday, October 15 at 12:45 p.m. The tournament chair, Roy Robinson, requests sign ups on the Center bulletin board. List a full team or partial team no later than Friday, October 14, or phone Roy at (650) 941-7978 or email him at royrobin@aol.com.

The Unit urges 99ers to sign up for a separate flight just for them. Attention, Players! Please cooperate with the sign-up to help the tournament organization and get the matches started on time.

Be there with your smile and name tags for bridge fun!

Unit Pursues Trophy Recipient

The sportsmanship trophy recipient will be a Unit member noted for friendship, a pleasant attitude and the practice of active ethics. The Unit has presented a Trophy annually since 1962 to a member with these excellent qualities.

Liz Blum, the Unit Trophy chair, has named a committee to select the recipient. The members are Liz Blum, Merle Orellove and Dave Wheeler. They invite Unit members to suggest a nominee. To submit a player's name by phone or email contact Liz at 941-2824 or liz@blums.com.

In October, there will also be boxes available at the Bridge Center, Unity Church and Cubberley for players to offer a suggestion. Remember this is not a vote. The deadline for suggesting nominees is November 1.

Please join your fellow players at the Sportsmanship Trophy pot luck luncheon and game on Sunday, November 13 for good eats, good bridge, a good time and for the Trophy announcement and presentation.

Player Advancements

The ACBL September report show that the following players have moved up. Well done!

Junior Master Chris Prael

5 MP

Club Master David Crosley

20 MP

NABC Master Frances Bennett

200 MP

Reminiscing (Part Two of Two) by Gersh Wheeler

The established "experts" resented Culbertson's success and banded together to oppose him. They formed a bridge organization and devised a system which they called the "Official System." Culbertson pictured the experts as twelve monsters trying to keep a young couple from making a living. Finally he challenged them to a match to determine which system was better.

The experts accepted the challenge and chose Sidney Lenz to represent them. This was a rare case of unanimity among top bridge players. They all agreed that Lenz was the best at declarer play. Lenz had made a fortune in the lumber business by age 30 and decided to devote the rest of his life to games. He played scratch golf and shot his age at 69. He held a record for continuous games in bowling that was not broken for 20 years. He played tennis, chess and backgammon well enough to play with the masters in each game. But bridge became his favorite and he became a bridge columnist and wrote books on play.

The match was billed as the Culbertson-Lenz match and began in December, 1931 and finished a month later. Lenz was 58 at the time and chose as his partner 29-year old Oswald Jacoby. Culbertson was 39 and chose his 33-year old wife Josephine to be his partner. Culbertson put up \$5,000 and Lenz \$1,000, the money to go to charity regardless of the result of the match. It was agreed that they would play 150 rubbers of bridge with Culbertson and Lenz playing the entire match, but free to change partners. Lenz and Jacoby played 103 rubbers, and then Jacoby quit because of a disagreement on defense; Lenz finished with Winfield Liggett.

As might be expected, the news media blitz was tremendous. The Associated Press ran a line into Culbertson's suite at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and had a daily comment from Ely on the day's play. The public lapped it up and bought books by the experts. Milton Work, a noted authority on contract bridge responsible for the point count system later adapted by Goren, even wrote a book on the Culbertson System which sold very well. Morning newspapers published the score of the match each day in their headlines.

Culbertson won by 8950 points, not a huge margin for the more than 850 hands that were actually played, but enough to convince the public that the Culbertson System was superior. In truth, this was not proved. Ely and Jo were an

established partnership, which always had an edge over players playing together for the first time. And on 14 hands Lenz and his partner got into serious trouble and lost 11,500 points. This means that on more than 800 hands, the Lenz team led by more than 2500 points. The players did not stick to their systems, frequently inventing bids. At this late date, I don't remember the hands, but one hand did impress me. Culbertson was the dealer and took five minutes before he opened with "five spades." His partner at the time was Theodore Lightner, who also took a long time before he finally called "Pass." Lightner held an average hand with two red aces. Culbertson described this as the greatest pass in bridge history. Lightner later explained that he believed that if his partner were interested in aces outside the trump suit, he would not have opened five spades.

This was a case where everybody won. The game received so much attention that all the experts gained in the publicity. The public bought books on bridge by anyone who was a columnist or won a tournament. Through the 1930's the game was the most popular form of entertainment.

Special Unit Meeting

Unit 503's Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) was last revised in 1987. Much has changed in the governance of the ACBL and Unit. A group has spent the last year revising the C&B and has put it in the form ready for a membership vote. Ratification requires approval by 2/3 of those voting. The vote will take place at the beginning of the Unit "pot luck" game on Sunday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m.

A copy of the C&B, both existing and proposed, can be found on the Unit's web site www.palo-altobridge.com. It will also be posted at the Bridge Center, Cubberley, and Unity Church after October 1st. Please take time to read the proposed C&B and be ready to vote at the Unit game. If you would like a copy of the 6-page document or have any questions, please notify Elinor Tanck or Alan Cummings.

Profile on Walter Miller by Mary Van Tamelen



Laughter and bridge; those two words do not generally go together. Yet those two outcomes are the essence of what Walter Miller is striving for in his games. He runs two games at Unity Church—a Tuesday open and stratified game, and a Wednesday 49er game. Both are popular. Walter's conduct at the games, according to one participant, "is the epitome of gentlemanly behavior." Others call him a "great guy," "humorous," and like "his instructions-and his attitude."

Walter was born in Taft, California, the son of a construction engineer for Standard Oil. As such, he was, according to his mother, "the first white baby brought to Arabia," and lived in Bahrain, Sumatra, India, Australia, the Philippines and New Jersey. His schooling included high school in the Philippines, where he won a 3-meter diving competition against high school and college contestants. He also attended the Menlo Boys School in Menlo Park, where his best friend had a mother and sister who played bridge. His parents had also played bridge, living in compounds in foreign countries where there was no other night life; they often indulged in all-night sessions. His grandmother actually taught Walter to play bridge while he was in seventh grade. But at Harvard, in order to graduate, he gave up bridge—for a while.

After graduation, Walter worked for an inventor interested in detecting mercury for mining, and then as a data processor at Ames, where Grant Baze also worked. In the Space Sciences division, Walter worked at processing the information procured by astronauts from outer space. Serious bridge for Walter began when a friend got him a partner; a woman, whose husband was a ghost writer for Culbertson. She stopped playing with him, because she didn't want any more points. But Walter continued. In 1969, he became a Life Master, number R000690, and by 1985 he focused on tournament play, ending up in the top 300 of the National Barry Crane competition.

Then a friend asked him to teach a friend, and then another friend, and so on, until Walter became a consummate teacher. He has taught probably 1000 students over the years, never finding a proper book for them to use. So he wrote his own: Duplicate Winning Bridge (\$30). It's a book simply and clearly written, yet useful as the student becomes proficient.

Walter is often asked to expand his 49er game; people want to stay with it after their advancement beyond 49 points. "But then it wouldn't be a 49er game," Walter states, so he is adamant about continuing to cater to the newer player in his Wednesday game. The rules are stringent: 1. Have fun. 2. Be nice to your partner. 3. Be nice to your opponents. And you know he's doing a great job of making bridge a game that's fun, when at a tournament, one player says to the other: "You're so nice. You must be from Walter's game!"

Who's New to Our Club?

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Jan Boelke, John Elman and Khalid "Hal" Kazi, Omer Barnir and Art Schmid. Hello to Lillian Dubinsky and Jonathan Ullman, who recently transferred into the Unit.

Next Board Meeting
Monday, October 2 at 2:45
Bridge Center

The Bees Against the Elephants

Returning home from a three-week vacation in August, I was curious how my friends and partners did at the tables. The first one I met was Gary Yang, a friend and partner for fifteen years. Old Gary forgot that I cancelled our regular third Wednesday game. "Fortunately you were not there...I played with a new player, a non-life master. We won with 65%... she plays better than you!" He lied though; they had a 65.71% game!!

During this year's Santa Clara Regional, I was left home alone as my wife and children went to Lake Tahoe. I played two sessions each day, listened to lectures by Bruce Ferguson and others, and kibitzed pros or friends early mornings and evenings.

On Sunday night, after a bad day with a 43% game, I was kibitzing Bobby Wolff, a Bridge Hall of Fame recipient and world champion. He was playing against two ladies from the Palo Alto Unit. I knew them by face but did not know their names. One of them was happy to see me there and told me that she was the substitute who played with Gary that Wednesday.

The match was expected to be a mismatch. A world-class pair was playing against two non-life masters. However, it turned out to be a thrilling match. The two ladies played impressively. They did everything right. They competed, defended and played the hands impeccably and gave away nothing. It was an excellent show.

After the match Wolff's teammates came to the table to compare. I knew Peter Weischel, another Bridge Hall of Fame recipient and a world champion, was one of them. The result spoke for itself – they tied!

On Monday morning, I rushed to find their names on the result sheet. They are Randee Palmer (Gary's partner that day) and Lynn Whelan. They made a most enjoyable memory for me of the All Western Regional of 2006.

Mostafa Hafezi

Bridge Center News



Frank Smoot and Lori Spaeth report that over 50 students have enrolled in the new Beginning Bridge Class series which our Unit sponsors every year and which started on September 14.

Ten regulars from Carla Davis' Easybridge group graduated and will soon be sitting at a table near you. If you see a new face, please say "hello" and welcome them.

Pick up the trash around your table and put your cups in the dishwasher. The Bridge Center is everyone's home away from home. Please treat it as such.

And...speaking of trash, recycling is coming to the Bridge Center. A new "single streaming" recycling bin will soon appear with new garbage containers (with lids). Single streaming allows paper, plastic, cans and bottles to be put in one container rather than having to separate them. So be on the alert!

Stay Current At Our Website (www.paloaltobridge.com)

We'd like to remind you to check our website regularly. It is one of the best ways to stay abreast of news about our Unit.

Last month, three of our regular games had to be canceled on short notice (Sherie's game at Cubberley Community Center and Bridge Mix and Palo Alto Club at the Bridge Center). Although we made announcements and posted messages at games, we probably didn't reach all the affected people that way.

To spread the news about the closures we also posted information in the News and Special Events areas of our website. On Friday, when PG&E cancelled the outage, we again posted the information on our website.

So do yourself a favor and check out our website on a regular basis. There's more there than the results of your last game.



August 2006 Winners' Circle



Daily game results are at www.paloaltobridge.com

Sunday

Sunday Afternoon

- 6 Unit Game
- 13 A. Struthers/E. Erickson
(B) D. Hong/J. Tang
- 20 M. Larkin/C. Lazarovici
(b) A. Desu/P. Airula
- 27 M. Larkin/C. Colvin/
J. & R. Williams
(B) M. Moore/F. Lubais/
N. & T. Cadwell
(C) J. Girand/B. Donoghue/
M. Livensparger/D. Partridge

Monday

Bridge Mix

- 7 R. Pollak/P. Blakely
(B) B. Hirsekorn/D. Wheeler
J. Flocks/N. Wolf
(BC) J. Von Gehr/C. Fay
- 14 M. Yates/C. Brigham
(B) G. Wheeler/M. Brabb
P. Chambers/D. Bernstein
(B) D. Wheeler/P. Tsu
- 21 D. Wheeler/H. Corbin/
G. Wheeler/M. Brabb
(B) J. Tseng/N. Wang/
M. Chen/B. Chu
(C) M. O'Malley/A.
Wallace/
M. Conner/P. Bellamy
- 28 M. Yates/C. Brigham
(B) G. Wheeler/N. Cadwell
P. Chambers/D. Bernstein

Sherie's Monday Game

- 7 G. Bowling/D. Partridge
J. Adamiak/E. Gove
- 14 D. Shannahan/M. Fikes
R. Smadi/J. Pride
- 21 See Bridge Mix
- 28 A. Pagin/M. Moutoux
N. Brubaker/N. Irwin

Tuesday

Alpine BC

Tuesday Noon BC

- 1 (AB) L. Tromovitch/S.
Barasch
(C) G. & L. Berg
(ABC) J. Stuart-Smith/P.
Clermont
D. Doolittle/D. Peschcke-
Koedt
(B) C. Karnos/M. Baird
(C) H. Harris/E. Schmitt
(AB) A. Wolman/M. Payne
(C) P. Stoner/D. Weissman
- 8 D. Hornback/J. Sogg
(BC) G. & G. Fong
(ABC) K. Kulander/L.
Johnson
(ABC) H. Harris/A. Gaudie
(AB) F. & S. Charney
(ABC) M. Condon/B. Hall
M. Wu/M. Kelly
(BC) M. Gampell/J.
Shannahan
(ABC) C. Karnos/N. Lobdell
(AB) F. & S. Charney
(C) R. Kelly/J. Sheppard
- 22 (AB) G. Spaeth/P. Clermont
A. Wolman/M. Payne
(C) M. & M. Dowley/
J. & M. Lucid

- 29 J. Jones/M. Petersen
(BC) H. Harris/E. Schmitt
D. Doolittle/W. Miller II
(BC) K. Kulander/L. Johnson

Tuesday Night BC

- 1 E. Barlow/J. Wu
- 8 F. Gonzalez/H. Szejnwald
(Tie) L. Frost/D. Cheng
(Tie) R. Haines/F. Herzer
- 22 C. Hanel/P. McFerren
- 29 Closed

Wednesday

Bridge N Brunch

- 2 B. Krop/C. Mandala
N. Wang/B. Chu
- 9 L. Yokel/J. Barry
C. Donovan/C. Henkels
- 16 B. Krop/C. Mandala
G. Yang/R. Palmer
- 23 C. Colvin/P. Saunders/
H. Blume/J. Girand
(B) C. Macey/N. Brubaker/
M. Troster/C. Weiler
(C) S. Lipson/S. Zimmerman/
L. Whelan/R. Palmer
- 30 G. & G. Fong
S. Ahnger/S. Barba

Wed. Aft. 49er

- 2 S. Sevey/L. Brauner
J. & T. Iverson
- 9 G. & G. Fong
L. Sheehan/C. Taylor
- 16 A. Bialson/B. Thayer
B. Dicks/J. Buell
- 23 G. & G. Fong
P. & P. Mock
- 30 G. & G. Fong
S. Ahnger/S. Barba

Lori and Sue's Doubleton Club

- 2 (ABC) I. & V. Galis
E. Tanck/C. Davis
(BC) C. Pryor/H. Szejnwald
M. & S. Stiege
L. Isaacs/G. Stark
- 9 L. Frost/C. Hanel
(BC) G. Spaeth/R. Lynch
L. Cicolani/J. McCloy
(AB) P. Cornelius/F.
Gonzalez
(C) F. Yang/S. Zhang
(Tie) M. & S. Stiege
(Tie) N. Sowers/A. Schmid
C. & R. Treakle
- 16 H. Solleder/F. Lubais
(B) A. Lam/D. Allison
(BC) R. McComb/M.
Flashner
L. Cicolani/J. McCloy
(B) J. Tang/D. Bernstein
(C) A. Wolman/J. Bower
J. McDonald/C. Amherd
J. Lucas/G. Stark
- 23 D. Bernstein/J. Tang/
P. & R. Chambers
(B) P. Kilner/R. Kilner/
M. Kelly/C. Cole
(C) M. Frank/K. Grieg/
J. Lucas/J. Boelke
- 30 Closed

Thursday

Thursday Aft. BC

- 3 B. Hirsekorn/C. Brigham
(B) P. Gross/S. Light
(ABC) C. Lane/M. Goodman
- 10 S. Blum/H. Bennett
(AB) G. Wheeler/G. Drew
(AB) D. Allison/A. Lam
- 17 (AB) A. Arnold/J.
Harpoottlian
(ABC) G. Leitstein/L. Blum
E. Barlow/B. Krop
(AB) J. Prior/B. Olmo
D. Gambelin/W. Yetter
(AB) D. Lowry/G. Spaeth
(AB-Tie) J. Robinson/D.
Bernstein/
A. Arnold/N. Evans
(AB-Tie) J. Wu/N. Wang/
J. Tseng/M. Chen

Sherie's BC

- 3 E. Ehrman/C. Weiler
J. Chin/P. Sun
S. Lipson/S. Zimmerman
D. & J. Foster
- 10 R. Palmer/A. Wolman
M. Condon/P. Krupa
N. Rude/K. Arnold
S. Schwartz/G. Joel
- 17 A. Templeton/C. Cole
J. Girand/M. Kelly
C. Karnos/G. Williams
D. Armstrong/S. Barasch
(ABC) C. Karnos/G.
Williams/
J. Chin/P. Sun
(ABC) J. Newman/B. Ward/
J. & L. Mattis
(ABC) S. Zimmerman/S.
Lipson/
L. Welch/A. Laird

Friday

Easy Bridge

- 4 E. Kamas/K. Hopkins
V. Howard/W. Thayer
- 11 J. Rush/M. Jacob
L. & M. Zatz
- 18 C. Hacking/E. Van Campen
P. Jarman/R. Pratt
- 25 P. Jarman/L. Cooper
B. Thayer/B. Morgan

Friday Morning BC

- 4 (AB) S. Shat/E. Chen
B. Beardsley/H. Corbin
(B) A. Mollard/A. Wallace
(C) N. Nilsson/C. Clements
P. & R. Chambers
(BC) R. Palmer/D. Kelley
G. Herrick/D. Bernstein
(B) R. Kilgren/A. Cummings
(C) N. Girand/M. Wu
- 18 H. Solleder/J. Stanczak
(B) B. Hirsekorn/R. Heller
(AB) P. Tsu/B. Hsu
(C) G. Leitstein/R. Lachman
- 25 J. Stanczak/H. Solleder/
H. Narasimhan/J. Mellstrom
(BC) R. Lachman/S. Morley/
R. Pollak/J. Tse

Friday Night Barometer

- 4 J. Stanczak/H. Solleder
(B) J. Verson/D. Brown
M. Imaoka-Yancy/M. Yancey
(B) V. Vidwans/R. Gupta
- 11 (ABC) H. Szejnwald/F.
Gonzalez
D. Rothschild/D. Shannon
(B) M. Cailean/L. Sink
(C) D. Grupenhoff/P.
McEleney
- 18 J. Stanczak/H. Narasimhan
(B) B. Liang/S. Wang
R. Powell/E. Leong
(B-Tie) F. Smoot/R. Jasper
(B-Tie) A. & K. Nielson
- 25 (AB) C. Riffle/J. Beck/
R. Gupta/J. Tang
(C) P. Cornelius/D. Hong/
M. Foss/M. Fleischer

Saturday

One Club

- 5 J. & R. Williams
(B) G. Wheeler/M. Brabb
- 12 (AB) D. Kuo/C. Lazarovici
C. Sideris/M. Cochran
(AB) R. Pollak/M. Chen
(C) T. Kato/K. Osumi
- 19 B. Krop/E. Barlow
(AB) M. Larkin/G. Drew
J. Flocks/J. Robinson
(AB) C. Sideris/M. Cochran
- 26 A. El Sadi/G. Macgregor/
J. Schoenbrun/R. Ng
(B) P. Saunders/T. Bowman/
C. Colvin/G. Drew

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/OTHER INFO
MON	Bridge Mix Palo Alto Bridge Club	Open/Strat. Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Kevin/Bonnie/Claire Sherie Greenberg	
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC Alpine BC Tuesday Night BC "Just4Fun" Bridge Group	Open/Strat. Open/<1K Open/Strat. <20 MP	12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Walter Miller Cameron Cotton Judy/Michael Leaders: Solna/Lu	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA No master points given; call Lu at (650) 321-9522
WED	Bridge 'n Brunch Wed Aft. 49er Lori & Sue's Dblton Club Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	Open/Strat. <50 M.P. Open/Strat. <20 M.P.	11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sue Johnston Walter Miller Spaeth/Johnston Spaeth/Johnston	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
THUR	Thur. Afternoon BC Sherie's BC Beginning Bridge Lessons	Open/Strat. Open/Strat. ♣ Series	12:00 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Beardsley/O'Leary Sherie Greenberg Frank Smoot/Lori	4000 Middlefield Road, Auditorium, Palo Alto Beginning Bridge Class starts September 14, 2006
FRI	Easybridge! Friday Morning BC Friday Night Barometer	<20 M.P. Open/Strat. Open/Strat.	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Carla Davis Claire Coleman 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 94043 unless otherwise noted.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Sectional, Saturday, September 30 at Santa Rosa, Druid Hall
Club Appreciation Pairs, Wed. Oct. 4 at 7 p.m., Lori & Sue's
Club Apprec. Pairs, Wed., Oct. 11 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'N Brunch
Unit Swiss Teams, Sun., October 15 at 12:45 p.m., Bridge Center
Upgraded Club Champ., Wed., Oct. 18 at 7:00 p.m. Lori & Sue's
Sectional, Friday, October 20 at Oakland, Holy Redeemer Ctr.
Sectional, Friday, October 27 at San Jose, Masonic Temple

Newcomer Games

Tuesday night (<20 MP—no master points given)
Wednesday afternoon (<50)
Wednesday evening (<20)
Friday morning (<20)
See schedule above.

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

TIME VALUE—DATED MATERIAL

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board:

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 Claire Coleman, Vice President
 Dave Wheeler, Secretary
 Alan Templeton, Treasurer
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 Liz Blum
 Gabriella Bowling
 John Hornback
 Chuck Lane
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