



Kibitzer

Palo Alto Unit 503

Volume L, Issue 4

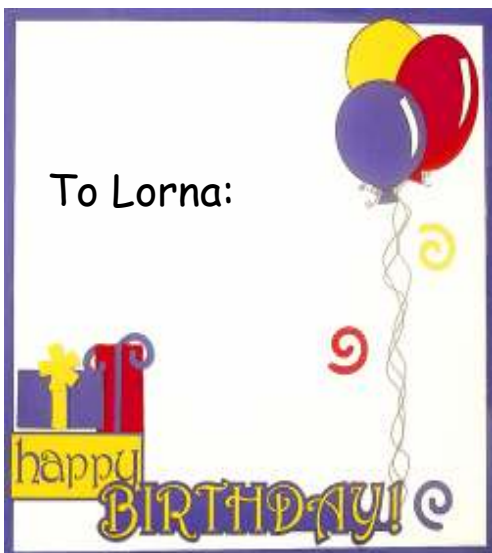
April 2007

NEW START TIME FOR LORNA'S BIRTHDAY BASH

It's almost here! The party of the year on April 3! To allow more time for high jinks, high bids and a high old time, the start time has been moved up to **11 a.m.** Players will have the opportunity to exercise their lovely singing voices to accordion accompaniment!

Start signing-up on March 13 on the sheets posted on the Bridge Center bulletin board. Remember to volunteer to help with decorations. Information Mary Ann Berg at (650) 328-0277 or Jean Flocks at (650) 854-2244.

One final caution: PLEASE NO GIFTS!!



TEAMS, MASTERPOINTS, AWARDS, GOODIES HIGHLIGHT APRIL 15 UNIT EVENT

Mark your calendar. Because of the popularity of team games, the Unit will conduct a Charity Swiss Team Game on Sunday, April 15. This is an ACBL Charity Game with a sectional rating which means extra master point awards. The game fee is \$36.00 per team. \$6.00 goes to ACBL Charities.

At this event, the Unit will honor its new life masters and Mini McKenney winners and will present the 2006 Ace of Clubs awards. Please arrive at the Bridge Center no later than 12:45 p.m. and please bring finger food to share during the game – crackers, cheese, pretzels, fruit and veggies, cookies, candy – or other tasty morsels that are neat and easy to eat.

There will be a separate game, with its own director, for our 99ers. We promise to be well organized so the breaks between rounds are short. Please look for a sign up sheet at your club. Swiss Teams are popular so please sign up early. Because of space limitations, we can have no more than 32 teams.

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

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <u>Junior Master</u> 5 MP | Elena A, Rhona Gilkey, Dana Martin-Newman, John Newman, Carolyn Treakle, Richard Treakle |
| <u>Club Master</u> 20 MP | Mary Dowley, Susan Hagerty, Carl Henkels, Valerie Hatton, Shirley Streifer |
| <u>NABC Master</u> 200 MP | Stephen Lubeck, John Tse, John Williams |
| <u>Life Master</u> 300 MP | Sioux Atkinson, Tom Cadwell, Geeske Joel, John Mattis |
| <u>Bronze LM</u> 500 MP | Janet Adamiak, Gloria Leitstein |
| <u>Gold LM</u> 2500 MP | Michael Andrews, Prudence Saunders |



DONATE TO THE 2007 FALL NABC

District 21 is honored and pleased to be hosting the 2007 Fall North American Bridge Championships, starting November 21 (Thanksgiving Day) through December 2. Rose Meltzer and Barbara Sonsini have agreed to chair the fund-raising/sponsorship committee and are looking to raise money from both corporate sponsors and our local bridge supporters and friends.

It would be wonderful if you could make a donation to help us defray expenses for the tournament, such as for prizes, gifts, food, entertainment, special events, tours, advertising, the daily bulletins, paying our caddies, and creating and producing our terrific banner currently on display at other NABCs and Regionals.

Your contribution might honor a specific person, a great teacher, or an organization. Would you consider naming, for a special person, a Side Game (for \$250), a two-session Pairs Game (for \$500), a Swiss Team event or Knockout (for \$1,000), or sponsoring an Intermediate/Novice event? Or would you simply care to donate money towards our seed money goals? Unfortunately your generous donations will not be tax deductible.

Let either Rose or Barbara know if you have any questions about this important contribution. Better yet, send your check made out to SF 2007 Fall NABC to Treasurer Harvey Brody, 400 Warren Drive No. 11, San Francisco, CA 94131

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Barbara C. Sonsini, bsonsini@hotmail.com
650-851-4407

Rose C. Meltzer, rose_meltzer@yahoo.com
408-356-3016

Need help on playing various card combinations?

Check the web site and take the quiz on "How to play Suit Combinations".

Questions first, answers follow.

THOSE DARN COMPUTER HANDS

by Eric Mayefsky

You don't have to play bridge at a club for very long before you hear stories about those demons of duplicate, computer dealt hands. Not long ago, pre-dealt hands were a beast only encountered at sectionals, regionals, and STAC week; but, as club owners discover the advantages of pre-dealt hands, they are becoming a weekly feature in more and more club games.

This leads to an obvious question. Why do those fiendish directors set up hands where every finesse is off, or where you're dealt an eight-card spade suit only to find your right hand opponent has the other five? The answer is equally obvious. They don't.

Despite what many players think, that hand you played last week where you needed to finesse the club nine at trick two wasn't put there by your director to challenge you. The randomly dealt computer hands are, honest to goodness, completely random. Bridge is a game of percentages. If players came to expect hands engineered to have bad breaks and losing finesses, the game's integrity would vanish almost instantly.

And, if you've always believed the hands the ACBL sends out for STACs and other special games are rigged, forget about it. According to the ACBL, only two people see those hand records before they're sent, and neither one of them knows how to play bridge.

However, if you can't shake the feeling that you've run into a few too many "crazy" hands when the cards are pre-dealt, you may not be losing your mind. Why? Because the computer hands are truly random, and the shuffle-and-deal hands at your favorite club usually aren't. A deck needs to be shuffled six or seven times for a random deal to occur; instead, cards are usually shuffled two or three times, leaving suits in clumps (which in turn leads to flatter distributions when hands are dealt). So, unusual distributions should be happening more than you might think.

So, next time you run into a 5-0 trump break, don't blame the director or the computer. Just remember that trumps will break 5-0 for everyone else in the room, too; and with hand records, at least you can prove to your partner later that even though you went down you played the hand like an expert.

It Seems to Me by Gersh

Do you worry about your discards, when declarer is running a long suit and thus ignore your partner's discards? Here is a hand that came up at a regular duplicate game:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| <u>North</u> | | |
| ♠ 76 | | |
| ♥ A102 | | |
| ♦ QJ109 | | |
| ♣ KQ98 | <u>East</u> | |
| <u>West</u> | ♠ A52 | |
| ♠ QJ1098 | ♥ K8 | |
| ♥ QJ97 | ♦ 8765 | |
| ♦ 42 | ♣ 7632 | |
| ♣ 105 | | |
| <u>South</u> | | |
| ♠ K43 | | |
| ♥ 6543 | | |
| ♦ AK3 | | |
| ♣ AJ4 | | |

I, South, opened one no trump (15-17). Partner bid three no trump, closing the bidding. West led the spade queen and East played the ace. I dropped the four because it was nearest my thumb. Then East led the spade five which I took with my king. Now I took eight tricks in the minors. West was concerned that if I had the heart king, then two heart discards would be fatal. So West discarded spades leaving this situation:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| <u>North</u> | | |
| - | | |
| ♥ A102 | <u>East</u> | |
| <u>West</u> | ♠ 2 | |
| - | ♥ K8 | |
| ♥ QJ9 | | |
| <u>South</u> | | |
| ♠ 3 | | |
| ♥ 65 | | |

I led the heart ace from dummy and East played the eight. Now East had to win the next trick with the king. On the thirteenth trick East led the deuce of spades, and I won the trick with the three!

West was correct to worry about whether I had the heart king. But before the eighth minor card was played I had shown 15 HCP; thus I could not have the heart king since my opening bid showed, at most, 17 HCP. Thus, West could have safely held a high spade and QJ of hearts.

East was also guilty. Had he paid attention to partner's discards, he would have known that West had no more spades and must be holding three hearts to the queen. East should have dropped the king under my ace of hearts, and West would win the last two tricks.

IMP PAIRS DRAW 24 TABLES STERNGOLD-KELLEY WIN OPEN TITLE, LUCIDS TOP 99ERS

The March 11 Unit game gave players a chance to try their hands (in more ways than one) in a pair's game with innovative IMP scoring. Judging by the good turnout, it was a popular event. Seventeen tables joined the open field and seven 99er tables came to play.

The partnership of Marjorie Sterngold and Diane Kelley scored first in A and B strata by a margin of less than one IMP. In the 99er game, Morgan and Mary Jane Lucid prevailed in A and B strata by even a narrower IMP margin. Michael Flashner and Robert McComb were first in C strata in the open and Omar Barnir and Paul Losch were number one in the 99er C. See the back page for overall awards or the Unit web page for a complete list of the point awards.

This contest required a great deal of special computer scoring skills from the director, Will Watson, who also duplicated three complete sets of boards with hand records. Great job and many thanks, Will! Unit Game Chair, Martie Moore made a special effort to recruit the 99ers and sign-up Carla Davis to direct this flight. The seven-table turnout is a testimony to her achievement. Thanks go to Carla for directing and to the clean-up efforts of Fabian Lubais, Maria Brabb, Carla and Elinor Tanck.

Before the game, President Alan Cummings convened the annual membership meeting, required by the constitution.

There will be further information in the May *Kibitzer* to clarify the status of the Tuesday game at the Hyatt listed on the Unit web page.

Unit News

- Congrats to the Unit players who placed in the D21 North American Pairs: Samuel Jeong and Tahir Gokcen, third and fourth respectively, in Flight A; Vandana Vidwans and Bob Sanner, first and fourth respectively, in Flight B.
- The Bridge Center has a new art show. Artist Anne Talbott, a relatively new duplicate player and past president of the Palo Alto Camera Club, has used water as a theme for her delightful photography exhibit.
- Ginger Herrick, the newest Board Member is already hard at work. She is chairing the Trophy committee and is the chair of the Unit 503 day at the Nationals in San Francisco. Sunday, December 2 will be the date that the Palo Alto Unit will staff the hospitality and partnership desks. Be sure to contact Ginger to lend a hand. She'll be looking for all the help she can get.

Newcomers

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Andrea Eaton, Ying Xu, Jungfeng Yang, Andre Der-mant, Steve Ligas, and Louise Spain.

SYMPATHY

The Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to Rose Heller and the family and friends of her husband, Unit member Don Heller, who recently passed away.

Newcomer Games

Tuesday night (<20 MP—no master points)

Wednesday afternoon (<50)

Wednesday evening (<20)

Friday morning (<20)

Next Board Meeting:

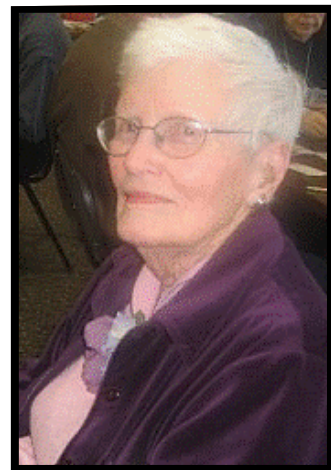
Monday, April 2 at 2:45 p.m. Bridge Center

Here's another 90+ Bridge fan --

Caroline Macey

By Mary Van Tamelen

How much do you know about Caroline Macey? She's a prognosticator par excellence. Having two daughters, Caroline told her husband, and then her doctor, that it was time for her to have twin boys. Her mother thought it a frivolous prediction; her doctor, even though she was pregnant, didn't believe her. But she produced them. And beyond that, four grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.



Born in Boston, Caroline grew up in Denver and attended the University of Colorado. She moved with her husband Tom, a consultant for business firms, from Denver to Mill Valley, to New Jersey, to Pennsylvania, to Kentucky, to West Virginia, to Kansas, and then back to California. Subsequently divorced, Caroline managed her family, and was head resident in Davis for three years, and worked in the Hoover Pavilion in the psychiatric intake division.

In this area, she took bridge lessons from Virginia Savstrom, Sherie Greenberg, and Jerry Smith, and says now, "If I didn't have bridge to play, I'd sit in my chair until I'm dead." Very much alive, Caroline plays usually 4 times a week in our club, which, she says, has a "wonderful mix of people—every kind, every age." When she's not playing, Caroline likes to putter in her garden, and read mysteries. She lives with her daughter, a technical writer.

Remember, when you're playing against her, that she can make predictions. The woman who could predict having twin boys can certainly predict a grand slam on occasion.



February 2007 Winners' Circle



Daily game results are at www.paloaltobridge.com

Sunday Sunday Afternoon

Monday

Bridge Mix

- 5 P. Saunders/R. Pollak
(AB) K. Shaw/L. Blum
R. Robbins/M. Moore
(B) M. Orellove/P. Kueffer
- 12 P. Saunders/C. Colvin
(B) G. Wheeler/M. Brabb
H. Corbin/G. Drew
(AB) N. Pappas/M. Troster

Sherie's Monday Game

Tuesday

Alpine BC

- 6 H. Narasimhan/E. Barlow
(B) R. & R. Singer
(C) G. Leitstein/E. Hariton
T. Bowman/R. Chambers
(B) P. Korn/M. Sterngold
(C) M. Orellove/J. Samuels
(AB) G. Van Deirse/N.
Brubaker
- 13 (BC) E. Moley/J. Carollo
(ABC) J. Pomeroy/J. Rosner
(AB) C. Tung/B. Chu
(ABC) L. Kelly/K. Kelly
B. & E. Barlow
(BC) D. Duncan/C. Binasik
(AB) N. Weiss/F. Nesenblatt
(C) J. & L. Mattis
- 20 (AB) R. O'Brien/D. Bernstein
(C) E. Yanklowitz/P. Gross
(AB) M. Moore/A. Cummings
(C) M. Howe/E. Worcester
L. Mohr/F. Dickman
(B) J. Samuels/J. Von Gehr
M. Hafezi/T. Bowman
(BC) J. Tseng/B. Hsu
(AB) C. Binasik/A. Eaton
(C) J. & M. Newell
- 27 (AB) J. Weiss/W. Pomeroy
(C) F. Nesenblatt/S. Landsman
(AB) J. Harpootlian/R. Haines
(BC) C. Lane/M. Goodman
B. Krop/B. Beardsley
(BC) Y. Chen/N. Wang
(ABC) N. Rude/J. Schwartz
J. O'Neil/J. Schoenbrun
(B) N. Nilsson/G. Drew
(C) P. Korn/L. Kelly
(Tie-ABC) P. Sun/J. Chin
(Tie-AB) M. Smith/J. Leaver

- 6 **Tuesday Noon BC**
S. Lubeck/N. Nilsson
(BC) J. Ardourel/L. Hawkins
B. Scott/K. Burnett
(BC) D. Jones/B. Durey
(AB) R. Luik/J. Birnbaum
(C) J. McCullough/J. Rose
E. Gove/J. Prior
(B) E. Kotecki/L. Johnson
(C) S. Hagerty/N. Finney
- 13 (AB) A. Natrass/M. Soltz
(C) H. Harris/A. Gaudie
A. Mollard/J. Franke
(BC) D. Fisher/L. Donovan
(ABC) D. Crosley/J. Yelland
E. Gove/J. Chui
(BC) M. Cook/J. Gentry
L. Mattis/F. Bennett
(B) J. McNeil/K. McIntosh
(C) L. Tanner/V. Howard
F. & S. Charney
(B) Y. Kano/E. Lissner
(C) M. Partney/C. Seal
- 20 D. Shannahan/S. Fikes
(BC) G. & G. Fong
(AB) P. Bellamy/A. Wallace
(C) J. Gentry/M. Cook
(AB) J. McNeil/D. Kelley
F. & S. Charney
(B) J. Pickart/H. Chapman
(C) B. & W. Sturtevant

Tuesday Night BC

- 6 C. Hanel/P. McFerren
- 20 C. Hanel/P. McFerren
- 27 F. Gonzalez/H. Szejnwald

Wednesday

Bridge N Brunch

- 7 (Tie-AB) D. Chang/Y. Chen
(Tie) C. Brigham/P.
Chambers
(C) N. Nilsson/R. Kilgren
(AB) B. Chu/N. Wang
(C) H. Chao/C. Leung
 - 21 (AB) A. Arnold/M. Brabb
(BC) D. Peacock/J. Sogg
M. Hafezi/G. Yang
(B) A. Mollard/D. Hornback
(C) C. Donovan/C. Henkels
 - 28 (AB) G. Drew/G. Herrick
(C) N. Nilsson/R. Kilgren
J. Flocks/E. Herrmann
(AB) G. Yang/J. Tseng
(C) G. Leitstein/M. O'Malley
- Wed. Aft. 49er**
- 7 D. & M. Bray
D. & P. Peterson
 - 14 B. Rosa/V. Howard
M. & D. Bray
 - 21 J. & T. Iverson
E. Wong/P. Sheng
 - 28 J. & T. Iverson
N. Kehl/B. Nuding

Lori and Sue's Doubleton Club

- 7 C. Hanel/L. Frost
(B) S. Malek/F. Gonzalez
(BC) N. Rude/D. Ryan
F. Chasalow/P. Cornelius
(ABC) J. Yang/Y. Xu
J. Lucas/O. Barnir
F. Anderson/S. Afshar
- 21 (AB) E. Frymoyer/W.
Garrett
(C) R. O'Brien/H. Szejnwald
H. Cutting/G. Macgregor
(Tie-ABC) R. Bestock/M.
Harris
(Tie-AB) J. Barth/H. Chang
J. McDonald/M. Fossourier
S. Afshar/A. Eaton
- 28 F. Lowenthal/J. O'Neill
(B) F. Gonzalez/S. Malek
(C) D. & K. Puryear
S. Smolen/E. Mayefsky
(AB) J. & R. Robinson
(ABC) I. & V. Galis
L. & R. Giusti
C. & R. Treakle

Thursday

Thursday Aft. BC

- 1 H. Narasimhan/E. Barlow
(BC) R. Haines/M. Moore
(AB) J. Robinson/D.
Bernstein
(BC) D. Ryan/G. Joel
R. Williams/C. Colvin
(B) R. & R. Singer
P. Saunders/G. Herrick
(AB) N. Pappas/M.
MacKinnon
(C) E. Edwards/M. Atherton
(AB) G. Wheeler/G. Drew
(AB) M. Moore/R. Haines
- 8 J. O'Neil/G. MacGregor
(B) G. Wheeler/G. Drew
R. Chambers/G. Joel
(AB) J. Von Gehr/G. Herrick

Sherie's BC

- 1 D. Hornback/A. Mollard
J. Adamiak/E. Gove
J. Collier/E. Schmtt
N. Rude/J. Schwart
- 8 A. Templeton/C. Cole
B. Liddicoat/J. Franke
J. & M. Williams
J. Schwartz/N. Rude
- 22 C. Weiler/H. Sung
S. Barasch/A. Wolman
S. Hagerty/D. Currier
G. Kates/J. Keehan

Friday

Easy Bridge

- 9 C. Delong/J. Eisenstat
L. Spain/V. Baldwin
- 16 C. Delong/J. Eisenstat
C. Kendall/A. Smithy
- 23 D. Musey/S. Siega
M. Winkler/K. Kaila

Friday Morning BC

Friday Night Barometer

Saturday

One Club

- 3 (AB) D. Kuo/C. Lazarovici
B. Beardsley/K. Harper
(B) D. Ryan/G. Joel
- 10 (AB) C. Lazarovici/D. Kuo
J. Kelsey/R. Jeyakumar
(B) M. Brabb/M. Moore
(BC) T. Cadwell/B. Kalafian
- 24 H. Bennett/F. Dickman
(B) M. Livenspargar/D.
Partridge
B. Beardsley/K. Harper
(B) P. Tsu/N. Wang
(C) M. Goodman/C. Lane

All games take place at 2639A Terminal Blvd., Mountain View 94043 unless otherwise noted.

| DAY | BRIDGE CLUB | TYPE | TIME | DIRECTOR(S) | PLACE/OTHER INFO |
|------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|---|
| MON | Bridge Mix | Open/Strat. | 11:00 a.m. | Kevin/Bonnie/Claire | |
| | Palo Alto Bridge Club | 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/<1K | 12:00 p.m. | Cameron Cotton | |
| | Tuesday Night BC | Open/Strat. | 7:00 p.m. | Judy/Michael | |
| | “Just4Fun” Bridge Group | <20 MP | 7:00 p.m. | Leaders: Solna/Lu | No master points given; call Lu at (650) 321-9522 |
| WED | Bridge ‘n Brunch | Open/Strat. | 11:00 a.m. | Sue Johnston | |
| | 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 | |
| THUR | 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/Lori | Defense (Feb. 8—Apr. 5) |
| 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 | |

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sectional, Friday, March 30 at Masonic Temple, San Jose
 Charity Game, Wednesday, April 11 at 11 a.m., Bridge ‘n Brunch
 Sectional, Friday, April 13 at Iron Horse School, San Ramon
 Unit Charity Swiss Teams, Sunday, April 15 at 12:45 p.m. Bridge Center
 Please remember to bring finger food.
 Charity Game, Wednesday, April 18 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
 Sectional, Saturday, April 21 at Catholic HS, Kentfield
 Sectional, Friday, April 27 at Centre Plaza, Modesto

Directors:

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 Cameron Cotton (415) 902-7800
 Carla Davis (650) 961-3731
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Unit Contact: Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917 or e-mail

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 Claire Coleman, Vice President
 Dave Wheeler, Secretary
 Alan Templeton, Treasurer
 Liz Blum
 Gabriella Bowling
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OVERALL WINNERS 3/11 IMP PAIRS

| <u>Open</u> | <u>99ers</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A1B1 M. Sterngold-D. Kelley | A1B1 M. & M.J. Lucid |
| A2 M. Andrews-S. Johnston | A2B2 E. Herback-L. Issacs |
| A3 M. A. Larkin-C. Colvin | A3B3 D. & P. Peterson |
| A4 D. Wheeler-L. Spaeth | A4 W. & J. Stern |
| A5/6 J. Stanczak-H. Solleder | A5B4 D. Peschcke-Koedt-A. Bialson |
| A5/6 J. O’Neil-H. Cutting | B5C1 O.Barnir-P. Losch |
| B2 E. & T. Seputis | C2 E. Kamas-K. Hopkins |
| B3 P. Korn-L. Kelly | C3 C. Chaney- C. Kendell |
| B4 M.C. Chen-A. Cummings | |
| B5 G. E. Tanck-G. Drew | |
| B6C1 M. Flashner-R. McComb | |
| C2 D. & E. Ehrman | |