



**Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVI, Issue 12, December, 2008**

Celebrate the holidays with your bridge friends at the Unit party on Sunday, December 7 at the Bridge Center. Double your fun with free bridge and free dinner!

Please bring an unwrapped new toy, book or game for a child as a donation and "admission" to the party. These will go to the Mountain View Police Department, which holds an annual "Cops that Care" holiday gift-giving event for needy kids in Mountain View. This is certainly a good choice since they look out after us.

Bridge is at 2 p.m. with dinner afterward. Chef Chu will cater the dinner and beverages will be on hand but feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share.

Be ready to sign up now at a local club or phone the Bridge Center to put your name on the list. The room capacity limits this event to 70 partnerships; both must be Unit members. There will be two flights, an open and a 99er. After the December 1 deadline the Tournament Chair, Mike Atherton, will review the sign-up list and if there is room, invite players from outside the Unit to sign up. For further information, contact Mike at michaelatherton@sbcglobal.net or the Bridge Center at (650) 940-1824.



---

It's time for the Palo Alto Unit to get out the vote! These members are running for the 2009 Board: Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky (incumbent), Jeanette McNeil, C. Grant Spaeth and Dave Wheeler (incumbent). Voters may write in the name of a candidate instead of voting for those listed. Those elected will form the 2009 Board with the current members: Mike Atherton, Trina Bowman, Nita Girand, Susana Krulevitch, Steve Lubeck and Alan Templeton. Election Chair Trina Bowman will announce the election results at the Unit party on Sunday, December 7.

Cast your ballot at your local club or vote by U.S. mail by sending your ballot from last month's Kibitzer with a legible signature on the outside to Trina Bowman at 1698 Miller Ave Los Altos CA 94024-5323 or email your vote by sending a list of names to trinabowman@att.net. The deadline for ballots is December 2.

**Vote, Vote, Vote -  
Yes, It's the Unit  
Election**

## **STAC: Bridge's Sparkling Holiday Giveaway**

The STAC (Sectional Tournament At Clubs) played throughout the Western Conference is here the week of Monday, December 8 through Sunday, December 14. Your local club will be giving gifts of extra masterpoints gleaming with *silver* to those who excel in these games. All clubs except Easy Bridge will hold a STAC.

---

## **Barometer Bridge Arrived October 26**

On Sunday, October 26, the barometer predicted fun at the Unit game. This unique event let players get instantaneous hand results and follow the rise and fall of their scores after each round. The partnership of Michael Andrews -Sue Johnston rose to the top of 36 pairs in Strata A with Stan Green -Robert Ipswitch scoring first in B and Diana Lowe -Mary Radin taking the lead in C. The partnership of Gayle Hester-Pete Klebofski tied with Nancy Lee -Drew Donovan for first in A and Maxine Koop -Lois Perry were ahead in B among the six pairs in the 99er flight.

Thanks to directors Claire Coleman and Will Watson for directing and providing many yummys for the tummy.

---

## **Updated Directory Coming Soon**

The Palo Alto Members and Friends Directory issues once a year in the spring and is given free to all Unit 503 members. If your name, phone or email has changed in the past year and you have not already done so or if you want to add your information, please contact Lori Spaeth (650) 947-9370) [spaeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spaeth@sbcglobal.net) or complete the form at your local club before February 15.

---

## **Unit 503 Education Fund**

Thanks to the generosity of over 50 donors, the 503 Education Fund was inaugurated in January 2008 with \$15,525. Our new library and the very popular Thursday Morning Lecture Series are underway and more programs are in the planning stages, especially classes to attract young people to bridge.

We need more volunteers to plan and offer programs and also hope to perpetuate the Fund with annual donations. Like last year, you can help by making a tax-deductible donation to the ACBL Educational Foundation, noting Unit 503 on the "memo" line, and send it to: *ACBL Unit 503, 2639A Terminal Blvd. Mountain View, CA 94043, Attn: Alan Cummings*

Questions? Contact Alan at [alan.cummings@stanford.edu](mailto:alan.cummings@stanford.edu), 650-619-6664 (cell) The details of the agreement with the ACBL Educational Foundation are on the Unit's website.

---

**Trophy Awards Postponed** - Because many players will be traveling to the Nationals in Boston, the Unit decided to present the Sportsmanship and Service Awards at the Unit party on December 7 rather than at the November 23 game.

**Unit Lecture-** Come and improve your bridge skills. Learn about third hand opening bids and the Drury convention from Lori Spaeth at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 11.

**Firecracker-** Get out your 2009 calendar and mark the dates. The 2009 Palo Alto Firecracker Sectional is set for the Convention Center in Santa Clara starting the afternoon of Wednesday, July 1 and ending on Sunday, July 6.

**Winners Trophy-** Three Unit members are dashing to a photo finish with two games to go. Jody and Richard Williams lead with 13.28 points with Christian Lazarovici close behind in third with 12.25. Others still in the running are Franklin Gonzalez 9.17, Sigmund Malek 7.81, Jean Flocks 7.42, Henryk Szejnwald 7.18 and Mary Ann Larkin 6.87. Among the non-Life Masters, Susan Stiege has 4.25 and Junfeng Yang 2.78.

**New Bridge Class-** The Unit announces its new course, "Play and Learn: Declarer Play" to start January 15. Please see the Classes section on the Unit website to learn more about this course and how to sign up for it.

**Bridge Center Break-in-** Someone broke into the Bridge Center and took our computer, monitor and keyboard. They also stole items from Twister's Gym. We are in the process of having our doors replaced and will investigate other steps we can take to make our facility more secure.

**Get well wishes-** to Edna Feder who is in the hospital.

**BridgePad-** The board decided to purchase BridgePad for those directors who feel its use will make their games run more smoothly. However, some north/south players prefer to use pick-up slips. When playing in a game in which BridgePad is in use, please notify the director that you prefer pick-up slips. It's no problem at all.

**Bridge World Collection-** Unit member Alex Stagner generously donated his 20-year collection of *Bridge World* magazines to share among the players. They are on the bottom shelf in the open bookcase at the back of the Bridge Center near the trophy display wall. There is a wealth of information in those pages. Feel free to take a few and then bring them back when you're through, so others may learn from them.

**199er Night Game-** The Doubleton Club on Wednesday evenings, owned by Lori Spaeth and Sue Johnston, is considering the addition of a third section - a 199er game, recommended by some who think the jump from 49er to open is too difficult. They are asking the 199ers whether they would support this new game. If so, before launching into this new undertaking, they would be grateful for your opinion - email to [spaeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spaeth@sbcglobal.net).

## UNIT NEWS UPDATE



## A Reminder About Zero Tolerance



Is everyone aware of the ACBL’s Zero Tolerance Policy? It exists, and your Unit enforces it so that you can count on a positive, pleasant bridge playing experience. The purpose of our Unit’s Protest, Conduct, Deportment and Ethics Committee is to insure that the Zero Tolerance practices of the ACBL are strictly maintained at all Unit activities.

### Zero Tolerance Policy

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in games. Eradicating unacceptable behavior will make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.
- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.
- Gloating over good results

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called **immediately**. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

Don’t be shy about using this important policy. Call a director and tell him/her “This player is interfering with my enjoyment of the game” . The director will take it from there.

## Player Advancements

The ACBL November report shows that the players named below have moved up.

Junior Master	5 MP	Barbara Fregoso, Marjorie Gray, Randy Rhody
Club Master	20 MP	Diane Dollinger, John Flavell, Sheryl Johnson, Eileen Zefting
Regional Master	100 MP	Gary Fong, Gladys Fong
Life Master	300 MP	Diane Kelley

## SYMPATHY

The Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to John Newman’s wife and bridge partner, Dana, his family and friends. John Newman, a Unit 49er passed away in November after a bicycle accident.

Also sympathy to Nancy Pappas and her family on the death of her daughter.

## Unit Membership Rises Steadily

by Elinor Tanck

From October 2007 through October 2008, the Unit added 29 new members, up 3.8% from the previous year, an increase nearly identical to last year's. The Unit is able to maintain its growth thanks to its industrious Board members, the Unit club owners and directors, the Education committee, the Education Fund programs and the efforts of all the members.

The ACBL October QUIP reports the following information. In the last 12 months, the active membership increased 3.6%. New membership gains were 6.8% and member losses 2.5%. In these three categories, the Unit ranked 10<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, respectively among the 22 District 21 units. The reports listed the average member age as 67 and the average years of ACBL membership at 18.

Gene Simpson leads the masterpoint tally with 26,322, Gary Macgregor being second with 7302, followed by Don Rothschild, Sherie Greenberg and Jim O'Neil. The player closest to the average masterpoint is Chester Binasik. Harry Bailey and Eiko Lissner are at the median. We must acknowledge that the significant increase in the Unit's total masterpoints and the average masterpoints are partly the result of the transfer of Gene Simpson into the Palo Alto Unit

Each October the ACBL issues a Unit membership list. An Excel spreadsheet version is the source of the information in this article. The table below compares the masterpoint distribution and other information for members from analysis of the ACBL data.

	2008	2007	MP Total	2008	2007
Members	799	770			
Juniors (<20MP)	198	181	0-1	64	50
Life Masters	284	277	1-5	48	51
Highest	26,322	6,903	5-10	32	35
Median	134	136	10-20	54	45
Average	576	534	20-50	85	92
Total	460,944	411,232	50-100	85	77
			100-300	118	122
Unit Residence	496 (62%)	468 (61%)	300-500	79	75
Santa Clara	108 (14%)	115 (15%)	500-1000	106	101
San Mateo	173 (22%)	166 (21.5%)	1-2.5K	86	85
Other D-21	17 (2%)	14 (2%)	2.5-5K	32	28
Outside D-21	7 (1%)	5 (0.6%)	5K+	10	9
Unlisted	0	2			

# Don't Hesitate to Ask

By Eric Mayefsky

The issue of hesitations at the bridge table is a complicated and often misunderstood topic. The following is a brief guide to the rules concerning this subject so that you can better inform yourself about your rights and responsibilities when such a situation arises.

**In order for the director to adjust the score due to unauthorized information (UI), ALL of the following things need to happen:**

1. **An irregularity occurs which gives a player UI.** The most common case is when a player takes a very long time to bid so that his partner has UI, but there are other scenarios where an adjustment may be necessary, such as if a player bids very quickly after a jump bid instead of waiting 10 seconds (whether or not the jump bidder played the stop card), or when a player reaches for one bid card and then changes her mind.
2. **The partner of the person who committed the irregularity makes a bid that might have been suggested by the UI.** This is not just a player making an aggressive bid after partner took a long time to pass! For example, suppose partner takes a very long time to respond to your 4C Gerber bid. If you conclude that your partner forgot you play Gerber and you make a different bid than you would have if he had remembered, the director may have to adjust the result.
3. **The player who has UI had a "logical alternative" which other players might have bid in the same situation without the UI.** This means you do not have to shoot yourself in the foot every time your partner hesitates! If

you believe that there is only one bid any reasonable player would make with your hand in a certain situation, you are always allowed to make that bid, even if partner hesitated or something else unusual occurred.

4. **The outcome of the hand is better for the side with the unauthorized information than the result which would have been reasonably obtained if the player with UI had chosen the "logical alternative."** This is why it's good to make sure you don't take advantage of UI—if the above 3 items all hold, your opponents will get the better of the two possible results on the hand.

## So...what should I do?

My advice on the best way to deal with these situations:

1. **If you need to think, think!** The possibility of giving your partner UI is not a good reason not to think about what your best bid is. If you do think for awhile and elect to pass, you only "bar" your partner if they have a borderline decision, and even limiting them in this way may still be a good result for your side! In the long run, it's much easier to get bad results because you didn't think enough about the right bid than because you took too long and barred your partner. Also, make an effort to think about your choices while other players are bidding. This will reduce the frequency with which you have to hesitate when it is your turn.





**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/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Kevin/Bonnie/ Claire/John	
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.	Will Watson	
	Just For Fun	Begin./Inter.	7:00 p.m.	Solna/Omer	No master points given. Call Solna at (408) 685-5323
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	<50 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Beardsley/Mattis	
	Sherie's BC	Open/Strat.	12:30 p.m.	Sherie Greenberg	4000 Middlefield Road, Auditorium, Palo Alto
	Cardinal DBC at Stanford	Open	7:00 p.m.	Eric Mayefsky	Meyer Library, 560 Escondido Mall, Stanford
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Roy Robinson	
	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.	John Prior	
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	
	Sunday Afternoon BC	<99 M.P.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- \* Thanksgiving Pot Luck, Sunday, Nov. 23 at Noon, Bridge Center
- \* Unit Pairs, Open and 99er Flights, Sunday Nov. 23 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- \* Sectional, Friday, Dec. 5 at Orangevale, Community Ctr
- \* Unit Game, Election, Awards, Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m., Bridge Center. Reservations required.
- \* Unit Dinner Party, Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m., Reservation Required
- \* STAC, Monday, Dec. 8-Sunday, Dec. 14 at all clubs
- \* Unit lecture, Thursday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m., Bridge Center
- \* Membership game, Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Cardinal DBC at Stanford
- \* Regional, Friday, Dec. 26 at Reno, Grand Sierra Resort
- \* Club championship, Tuesday, Dec. 30 at noon, Tuesday Noon BC
- \* Club championship, Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. Wed. Aft. 49er

### Club Closings

- \* Wednesday, November 26, Doubleton Club
- \* Thursday, November 27, Thanksgiving, Thurs. Afternoon BC, Sherie's BC, Cardinal DBC
- \* Friday, November 28, Friday Morning BC
- \* During STAC: Friday, December 12, The EZ Game
- \* Wednesday, December 24: Bridge 'n Brunch, Wed. Aft. 49er, Doubleton BC
- \* Thursday, December 25: Thurs. Afternoon BC, Sherie's BC, Cardinal DBC

### Directors

Bonnie Beardsley (408) 263-5953  
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917  
 Sherie Greenberg (650) 856-7941  
 Sue Johnston (510) 505-0275  
 John/Linda Mattis (408) 739-7812  
 Eric Mayefsky mayefsky@stanford.edu  
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929  
 Kevin O'Leary (650) 279-0005  
 John Prior (408) 745-0380  
 Roy Robinson ((650) 941-7978  
 Frank Smoot (408) 732-5736  
 Lori Spaeth (650) 947-9370  
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731

Unit Contact: Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917 or e-mail

[unit503@paloaltobridge.com](mailto:unit503@paloaltobridge.com)

Unit 503 Web Address:  
<http://www.paloaltobridge.com>

Bridge Club Phone: (650) 940-1824  
 District 21 Hotline: (888) 292-4612  
 Dist. 21 Website: [www.d21.acbl.com](http://www.d21.acbl.com)

### Kibitzer Editorial Staff

Elinor Tanck (408) 738-2511  
 e-mail: [tancke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tancke@sbcglobal.net)  
 Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896  
 e-mail: [Kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.marian@gmail.com)