



# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVII, Issue 1, January, 2009



The New Year is here! Ring it in with bridge at the first Unit Pairs Game on Sunday, January 18 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center. Stay out of the cold and come in for bridge and the warm friend-

## Join Us for 2009's First Unit Game

It's *Pairs* on Jan. 18

ship of your fellow players. Greet them with a welcoming smile. Attention 99ers! We hope to see many of you at this game. There is a special 99er section with its own director waiting for you. Players do *not* need to sign up for this game. For more information, contact Mike Atherton at michaelatherton@sbcglobal.net or the Bridge Center at (650) 940-1824.

This year the Unit Sportsmanship Trophy, first awarded in 1963, went to Dave Bernstein who has a long history of participation in bridge in the Unit. Unfortunately, Dave was not present when Eric Mayefsky, the Trophy Chair, made the announcement on December 7. Dave said he was very happy to receive the honor and regrets he could not attend because of a previous concert commitment.

## Unit Presents Awards to Dave Bernstein and Martie Moore



Dave combined his passion for bridge with his studies at Stanford in particle physics. Bridge went to the back burner when he married Anne and raised two children. Dave worked at SRI and at the Center for International Security and Arms Control. After he re-

tired, it was back to bridge. Unlike many players, Dave is not interested in masterpoints but in enjoying the game and improving his bridge skills through the bridge literature and the internet. He finds defense the most fascinating part of the game, and the hardest is judgment in (cont. p.3)

## Reminder! Get Directory Changes to Lori NOW

Repeating from last month's Kibitzer: the Unit's free directory of members and friends is being revised. . If your contact information has changed since the early '08 edition, please contact Lori Spaeth (650) 947-9370), [spaeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spaeth@sbcglobal.net) or complete the form at your local club.

## Doubleton Triples

Due to popular demand, starting January 14, 2009, Lori and Sue's Doubleton Club will have three sections (49er, 199er and Open) on Wednesday nights - all starting at 7:00 p.m. and ending about 10:00 p.m.:

- 49er , for those who have graduated from the beginning bridge classes and newer players - 18 boards; must have fewer than 50 masterpoints.
- 199er, for those who are looking for a little more challenge but are not ready for the Open game - 24 boards.
- Open game, unlimited masterpoints, challenging - 24 boards.

In order to maintain three sections, we will need your support. Please join us Wednesday night.

## Unit Board Election

In the December Unit election, the members selected incumbents Dave Wheeler and Eric Mafefsky and newcomers Phyllis Gaffney, Jeanette McNeill and Grant Spaeth. They will join current members: Mike Atherton, Trina Bowman, Nita Girand, Susan Krulevitch, Steve Lubeck and Alan Templeton to form the 2009 Board. Election Chair Trina Bowman reported that 58 members cast ballots. The Unit expresses its gratitude to the outgoing Board members, Alan Cummings, Gabriella Bowling and Ginger Herrick for their services.

At the December 9 meeting, the Board elected the following officers effective January 1: President Mike Atherton, Vice President Dave Wheeler, Secretary Susana Krulevitch and Treasurer Alan Templeton.

## Tribute to Mac

By Frances Miller

In loving tribute to our dear friend Mac. He was admired by everyone at the Club. A man from the old school—gracious and charming and a very pleasant bridge partner. After each game we said how much we enjoyed playing with each other... let's do it again. I, as well as all his friends, will miss him very much.

A fond farewell, dear Mac.

Mac MacKinnon passed away on Wednesday, December 10. He leaves his wonderful wife, Mary.

competitive auctions. Dave likes to have objective discussions about the hands after the games, but finds blaming awful. He likes bridge and he likes people and believes that this is the basis of good sportsmanship.

## Unit Awards to Martie and Dave, cont. from p. 1



Martie Moore is the well-deserving recipient of this year's service award, this being only the third year the award has been presented. Many Unit members have no idea of everything that Martie has done behind the scenes to benefit us all. She served on the Unit Board in 2007 and chaired the Unit Game Committee. She promoted participation by the 99ers by providing a director only for them. In 2008, the Board chose her as Vice

President, a position which included Bridge Center management. She campaigned for and achieved facility improvements and organized the Center supplies.

Martie is a UCLA graduate and was Chief Financial Officer for the District Attorney's office in San Francisco for many years until she retired. She has two grown children and a chihuahua named Chico. In addition to having her hands in bridge, she uses her green thumb in the garden.

The last bid, the last winning finesse and perfect defense at the final Unit game earned Jody and Richard Williams the annual Winners Trophy for the best performance in the Unit games throughout 2008. Chris Lazarovici in third made it a close race. The best record for a non-Life Master belonged to Carolyn Chaney with 5.38 points with second going to Richard Pollak with 4.71. Thanks go to Eric Mayefsky for keeping the records. The list at the right shows the final standings:

## Williams' Show the Will to Win



L to r: Carol Brigham, Rich Williams, Betsy Steele, Jody Williams

Richard Williams	17.79
Jody Williams	17.79
Christian Lazarovici	16.49
Lou Frost	12.44
Carencay Hanel	12.44
Sherie Greenberg	11.61
Vandana Vidwans	10.80
Sigmund Malek	10.63
Mary Ann Larkin	9.94
Elinor Tanck	9.77
Carla Davis	9.77

## Two Memorable End-of-Year Unit Games

At the **December 7 Unit Pairs game**, the highlight had to be the free bridge with an overflowing 33 ½ tables including five in the 99ers. This turnout came close to testing the capacity of the Bridge Center. The festivities included Eric Mayefsky's presentation of the sportsmanship award to Dave Bernstein and the service award to Martie Moore. The players also applauded the announcement of the results of the election for the Unit board. Last but not least was the players' enjoyment of the sumptuous buffet catered by Chef Chu's.

But the big winners were the children who will be recipients of the many, many toys donated by the players to the "Cops that Care" program. Many thanks to all of you for contributing to the table shown at the right.



The bridge winners were: A, Vandana Vidwans & Rajeev Gupta; B, Sigmund Malek & Franklin Gonzalez; C, Eusebio Menezes & Phyllis Gaffney; 99ers, Dee and Pete Peterson. And we can't forget all those fantastic volunteers who made all the good things possible. Mike Atherton chaired the event, Will Watson and Alan Templeton directed and Marcella Atherton, Roy Robinson, Linda and John Mattis, John Williams and Alice Arnold all helped enormously.

As a prelude to the December excitement, players feasted before the **November 23 Unit Pairs game**. The Unit donated turkey and the players each brought a dish to supplement the big bird. There was scarcely room for all the appetizers, side dishes, salads

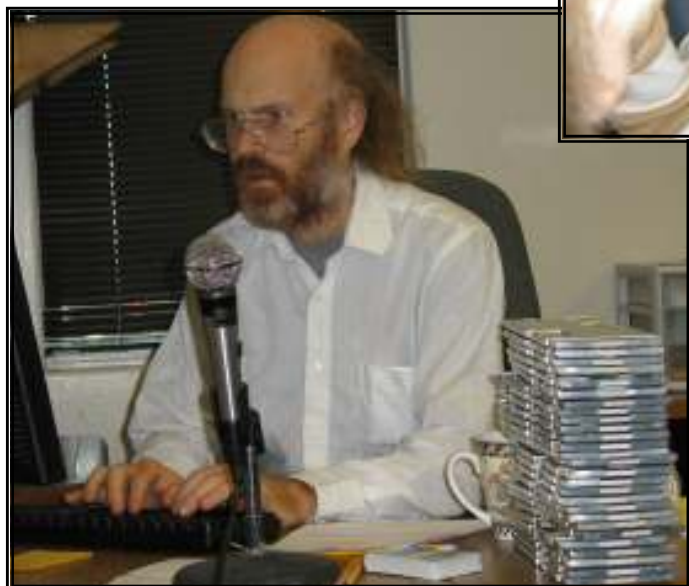


and desserts squeezed onto the tables. There were lots of satisfied smiles when the game got underway.

And a few were still smiling three hours later. Winners in the 21½ table open game were: A, Franklin Lowenthal & Robert Ng; B, Alice Arnold & Jan Samuels; C, Grant Spaeth & Michael Atherton. Successful in the 5-table 99ers game were: A, Carolyn Chaney & Susan Griswold; (to next page)

*'Tis A Fine Party! Dave Wheeler, Alan Templeton, Lori Spaeth, Cres Cole*

B, Lois Perry & Maxine Koop. Again kudos to Mike, to directors Will Watson and Sue Johnston, and to Alice Arnold, Leslie Kelly, Bev Nuding Bob Rove and to all those who brought side dishes making it a **great party!**



(Left) As the Party Goes on Around Him...

*Will Watson*

Thanks to our Photographer

*Roy Robinson*



*Elinor Tanck, Juliane Robinson, Phyllis Gaffney, Mike Atherton*



*John Stanczyk*

Perhaps next year we can find a white beard for him?

## Unit 503's Ongoing Lecture Series

Made Possible by the  
Unit's Education Fund

The Thursday fall quarter lecture series concluded December 11 with an excellent lecture by Lori Spaeth on the Drury convention.

Thanks to fall quarter lecturers Geeske Joel, Sherie Greenberg, Jim Leuker (2), Dave Bernstein (2), and Lori for helping players develop their bridge skills. 133 players attended one or more lectures with an average of 60. Thanks also to John and Linda Mattis and Bonnie Beardsley for coordinating the lecture with their Thursday noon games.

Mark your calendar! The lecture series will continue at 10 a.m. as shown below:

January 15	Preempts: A Guide To Stick Your Neck Out	Eric Mayefsky
January 29	Two Suits Are Better Than One: Michaels, Unusual NT, Other Two-Suited Hands	Eric Mayefsky
February 5	The ABC's of Defensive Signals	Sue Johnston
February 19	The Art of the Discard	Sue Johnston
March 12	Suit Opening Bids Revisited: All Seats and Vulnerability	Jim Leuker
March 16	No Trump Opening Bids Revisited: All Seats and Vulnerability	Jim Leuker

The Thursday Morning Lecture Series is made possible by generous tax-deductible donations from Unit members to the ACBL Educational Foundation for use by our Unit. Further donations are welcome. Information is on the website [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com) or you may contact Alan Cummings at [alan.cummings@stanford.edu](mailto:alan.cummings@stanford.edu) , 650-619-6664 (cell).

### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Ethna McGourty, Laurie Trescott, Brij Mohan Banda, Alex Lovejoy, Susan Marshall, Janelle McDonald, Eusebio Menezes, Marlene Smeed and Brenna J. Wundram.

### Newcomer Games

Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)  
Wednesday afternoon (<50)  
Wednesday evening (<50)  
Friday morning (<30)

#### Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Michael Atherton,, President  
Dave Wheeler, Vice-President  
Susana Krulevitch, Secretary  
Alan Templeton, Treasurer

Trina Bowman, Phyllis Gaffney,  
Nita Girand, Steve Lubeck, Eric  
Mayefsky, Jeannette McNeill, Grant Spaeth

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, January 13 at 3:45 p.m.  
Bridge Center

# It Seems To Me

By Gersh

## Player Advancements

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

Congratulations!

Junior Master	5 MP	Cyrus Coupal, Raj Khanna, Jo Palermo
Club Master	20 MP	Susan Barkley, Kathy Jacobs, Richard Yu
Sectional Master	50 MP	Sherry Barba, Pam Stoner
Regional Master	100 MP	Mark Herbach, Lu Isaacs

## Learn Four Cue Bids

Series of Four Classes at The Palo Alto  
Bridge Center

by Kathy Harper

ABTA Master Teacher

Tuesday Mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

March 31, April 14, April 28, May 5

The price for the series is \$100.

Kathy Harper

[Kharper100@aol.com](mailto:Kharper100@aol.com)

650 207-1816

Why is defense so difficult at bridge? Maybe it's because every time you learn a "rule" there is an exception to it. Consider the rule that when declarer leads an honor, you should cover it if you have a higher honor. Specifically, let's look at what to do when you hold the king of a suit.

First, consider the case where dummy holds QJ9 of a suit. Declarer leads the Q from dummy. If you cover with the K, declarer plays the A and will now have J9 in dummy over your partner's 10. Obviously, playing the K on the first trick is wrong. But if dummy did not have the J, the play of the K would be correct. Now suppose that dummy has A and two small cards in a suit, and declarer leads the Q of that suit. You hold the K. What do you do? If declarer does not hold the J, you should play the K. But if he *does* hold the J and 9, playing the K would be wrong.

In another situation, declarer is in a contract of 3 NT. Dummy holds A108642 of clubs and no other entry. Declarer leads the club Q. If you hold KJ9, you must play the 9. If you play the K, declarer will duck in dummy and later will finesse for the J and make 5 club tricks. Note that if you held J97 and your partner held K-small, partner must not win the first trick as that would enable declarer to win five club tricks. Refusing to win the first club trick is a very difficult defensive play for partner. But partner must do it without hesitation.

Hesitating before play gives away too much information. (To hesitate for no reason is unethical.) When dummy first comes down, before you play to the first trick, try to picture declarer's strength and decide what you are going to play when declarer leads through your K. You will frequently be wrong, but by doing your thinking at the first trick, you will be right more often than not.

Another similar situation arises when dummy has AJ1084 of a suit and declarer leads a small card in that suit towards dummy. If you hold K and two small, play the K. If dummy has no other entries, this play kills the chance of declarer winning four tricks in the suit.

**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	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<200 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/Strat	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	

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- \* Club championship, Tuesday, Dec. 30 at noon, Tuesday Noon BC
- \* Club championship, Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. Wed. Aft. 49er
- \* Regional, Monday, January 5-11 at Hyatt Monterey
- \* Unit Lecture, Thursday January 15 at 10 a.m. Bridge Center
- \* Unit Stratified Pairs, Sunday, January 18 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- \* Sectional, Saturday, January 24-25 at Hart Middle School, Pleasanton
- \* Unit Lecture, Thursday, January 29 at 10 a.m. Bridge Center

### No Game Scheduled

- \* Wednesday, December 24, Bridge 'n Brunch, Wed. Aft. 49er, Doubleton BC
- \* Thursday, December 25, Thurs. Afternoon BC, Sherie's BC, Cardinal DBC
- \* Friday, December 26, Friday Morning BC
- \* Wednesday, December 31, Doubleton BC
- \* Thursday, January 1, Thurs. Afternoon BC, Sherie's BC, Cardinal DBC
- \* Thursday, January 8, Thurs. Afternoon BC

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