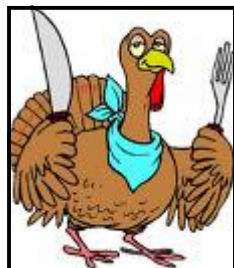




KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVII, Issue 11, November, 2009



Start off the month with a good time at the Bridge Center featuring food, friends, fun and bridge. Arrive for our early celebration of Thanksgiving at 11:45 a.m. bringing your pot luck choice of appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert. The Unit will add a very large turkey with all the trimmings to be shared by all with your delicious

dishes. The best is yet to come, so we will eat first and then enjoy a stratified pairs open and 99er game at 12:45 p.m.

Players, please list your name on the sign-up sheet at the Center or on the Unit website. Participants may also contact the Bridge Center at (650) 940-1824 or Phyllis Gaffney at (408) 730-0654, 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net

**A Foretaste of
Thanksgiving
with Bridge and Friends at
Pot Luck Unit Game
Sunday, Nov. 1.**

On September 20, it was again time for the Swiss to arrive at the Bridge Center with 21 teams. The top finishers were Mary Ann Larkin - Claire Coleman - Ida Lee - Christian Lazarovici in AB and Irwin Maltz - Mona Maltz - Sharon Krawetz - Kathleen Weiman in C. Because of a problem meeting the team numbers, there was no 99er flight. At a recent meeting, the Board discussed this situation and set a standard for filling a flight. Thanks go to directors Will Watson, Eric Mayefsky, Sue Johnson and to Phyllis Gaffney for an array of goodies.

At the monthly Unit Monday Night Swiss on October 5, the teams of Franklin Gonzalez - Metin Gokcen - Henryk Szejnwald and Richard O'Brien secured first place in the open. In the 99ers Beverly Bernhardt - John Wainright - Glenda Murray - Alice Kinnamon and Gina Norberg - Kathleen Weiman - Rochelle Gutmann - Ann Wainright were first in A and B, respectively. The event included two teams in the open and eight in the 99ers.

**We Love Swiss Teams!
Here are Some Recent
Results**

BIG GAME??

See your name in the Kibitzer whenever you score 70% or higher in a Club game! Usually you can find your score on p. 3 under Table Talk, courtesy of Marge Yates who is alerting your editors to those high scores. So be sure that Marge knows about any Unit game with a score greater than seventy percent (70%). Find her at the table or at margery.yates@gmail.com

- Marc Cohen and Bob Foo had a 79.17 game on 8-21-09!
- Marge and Ginger Herrick just managed 70% in early October.

**It's Time for the Unit Board Election
Here's Your Ballot**

November is election time, both for the nation and for the Palo Alto Unit. The Unit asks its members to choose the Board of Directors for six two-year terms. The election committee has named the candidates: Mike Atherton (incumbent) Steve Barash, Terry Lancaster, Lu Issacs, John Mattis and Sue Griswold. Voters may also decide to write in nominees. The winners will form the 2010 Board with the current members: Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky, Jeanette McNeil, Grant Spaeth and Dave Wheeler.

The *Kibitzer* has printed photos, candidate information and statements on pages 6 and 7 with a ballot here and voting instructions. Beginning November 1 ballots, envelopes and boxes will be at every game site to make voting easy for Unit members. Follow the directions on the ballot to vote by mail or email. The Unit must receive all ballots by Sunday November 15. The election chair, Ginger Herrick will announce the election results at the Bridge Center on Monday, November 16.

Official Ballot – 2009 Election - Unit 503

Select no more than six (6) candidates.

Mike Atherton (incumbent) ___ Steve Barash ___ Sue Griswold ___
 Lu Issacs ___ Terry Lancaster ___ John Mattis ___

Write Ins _____

Only a ballot received in a sealed envelope with a legible signature on the outside is valid.
 Deposit ballot in box at your local club or mail it to
 Ginger Herrick 12760 Dianne Dr Los Altos CA 94022-4606
 or vote by sending a list of names by email to ginger@khcww.com

Unit News



Bridge Center Rehab - The Unit has received information that Twister's insurance company has agreed to have an independent expert we recommended conduct new tests for air quality. We hope this will occur in the near future with any necessary remediation to follow.

Lectures - The calendar for this month includes Eric Mayefsky speaking about "Interference Bids - 1,2,3 Level" on November 5 and again on November 19 on "Bidding Over Interference."

Friday Morning - The Friday Morning BC and EZ Bridge will hold games on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27, but there will be NO LUNCH.

STAC Successes - Jeri Foley and Alice Smith playing at Walter's Tuesday Noon BC came in 2nd overall in A, 1st overall in B, 1st in C in the August 25 district-wide game. They won a whopping 16.58 masterpoints (497.5 tables).

Sherie Greenberg and Don Rothschild were 2nd overall and won 12.92 on Monday, August 24 (211 tables).

Awards - The current standings as of September 1 for the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney Awards are on the Bridge Center Bulletin Board and on the Unit website.

ID's for everybody? - Another chance is available to order permanent name badges. The cost is \$10. Please pay prior to ordering: Phyllis Gaffney (408) 730-0654, email 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net.

Bridge Class - Enrollment for the 2009 Intermediate class, which started on September 17, was extraordinary. It maxed out at 90 students with another 20 on the wait list. The Unit will repeat this course starting in February. If you are interested in joining us in February, please sign up by going to: www.paloaltobridge.com. Click on Classes and then sign up.

Doubleton Cha-cha-cha-CHANGES - Starting in January, Lori & Sue's Doubleton Club will convert their 49er game to a 0-20 game. The three new flights will be Open, 199er and 0-20. This change will automatically increase the masterpoints earned in the 199er group. The Open already earns increased masterpoints due to the limited games. If you have any questions or comments about this change or about the Doubleton Club in general, please email Lori at spaeth@sbcglobal.net. (to p.4)

NEWCOMERS
A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Amy Hsieh, Lori Mirek, Alexandra Narasin, Ken Pelowski, Donna Rennick, Sue Rotha, Michelle Tai, Dawn Black, Steven Busch, Dmitri Koltsov and Helen Macdonell.

*
* **Newcomer Games** *
* Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.) *
* Wednesday afternoon (<50) *
* Wednesday evening (<50) & (-200) *
* Friday morning (<30) *
*

Unit News

Continued from p. 3

Get Well !! - It's not a good time to be a club owner and director. A speedy recovery to Bonnie Beardsley recently injured in a car accident and to Sherie Greenberg recuperating from surgery to repair a broken pelvis.

Carpools - Ride sharing has gone on line. The Unit website has a link to help those of you who would like to carpool to the Unit's games. We invite you to add your info and help save our resources.

Library -Alan Cummings is asking for volunteers. Book "check out" is self service. Volunteers follow up on book returns and enter donated books into database. Contact Alan at alan.cummings@stanford.edu.

Unit NAP Qualifies Players for District Final

At the Sunday, October 11, two-session Unit NAP (North American Pairs) final, Unit members Eric Mayefsky, Paul Cornelius and Alex Lovejoy qualified for the district final at the Bayshore BC to be held the weekend of January 30-31. The top score among the 21 pairs went to Qiang Zhang and Renjun Guo, who topped strata A, B & C.

Do you ever forget to pick up a *Kibitzer*? Is some of the news old by the time you get to it? You can receive a color edition of the *Kibitzer* as soon as it is available, via your computer. Send your e-mail address to Kelly.marian@gmail.com and we'll add you to our list.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:
Tuesday, November 3, at 3:45 p.m.
Bridge Center

Player Advancements

The ACBL October report shows that the players named below have moved up. Congratulations!

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

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

Phyllis Gaffney, Nita Girand, Steve Lubeck,
Eric Mayefsky, Jeannette McNeil, Grant Spaeth,
Betsy Steele

Junior Master	5 MP	Ying Love, Michele Musy Walter Weber
Club Master	20 MP	Terry Lancaster, Polly Siegel, Alice Smith, Marjorie Robinson
Regional Master	100 MP	Yumiko Kano
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Marilyn Payne, Allen Wolman

A bridge game is a unique slice of life. Each hand and each set of opponents present new challenges. And dedicated bridge players strive to conquer those challenges and win the games in which they compete.

Eight or so years ago I had the incredibly good fortune to attend a duplicate bridge game without a partner. The director, a man known for accommodating partner-less players, introduced me to the woman who became my closest friend. I will be forever grateful for that serendipitous meeting.

Since then, through our experiences together, my partner and I learned much about the game of bridge. We learned to pay close attention to each card the other played and to follow her signals rather than second-guessing her strategies. We learned to forget about being right and to support each other's insights about defense and tactics in bidding. We were becoming skilled at the intricate dance of discerning the best contract, even when the cards we were each dealt didn't appear to fit together.

As declarer, I used to take the lead as soon as possible, pull trump, and only then would I begin to set up tricks in side suits. I wondered why she often chose a different line of play, intentionally ducking the early tricks in order to set up future ones. I

came to realize that by careful negotiation at the beginning of the hand, she avoided the precarious situation where unanticipated distribution or an opponent's hold-up play near the end of the hand might change the outcome. My partner taught me patience.

While meticulously reviewing the hands we played, we together discovered bidding and defensive sequences that would have landed us in the best contract or created the perfect defense. But doing it right was never the ultimate goal. Doing it together, smoothly communicating and thoughtfully considering each move – why did she choose to lead a suit other than the one she bid? Why didn't she play the lowest card she held in the suit I led? – made our game flourish.

Because bridge is not about winning a game. It's about partnership.

We listened to each other's triumphs and worries and gave encouragement, honest feedback and wholehearted support. Our communications have truly changed my life and I appreciate the gift of her partnership in more ways than I can possibly express in this brief tribute. My bridge partner is an extraordinary person.

This is for you, Donna. Thank you.

It's not about winning

By Sioux Atkinson

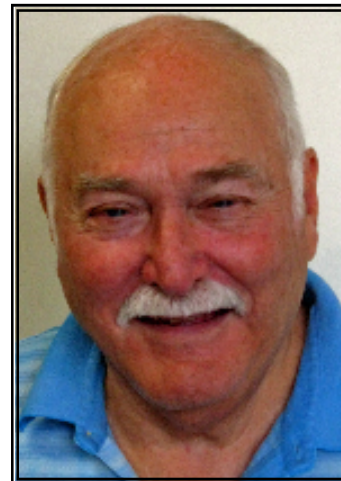
A tribute to Sioux's bridge partner, Donna Armstrong, who passed away last month.

Sympathy

The Unit Board and members extend their sincere condolences to Donna Armstrong's husband, Richard Sanders and her family. Donna passed away in September. Unit members posted remembrances of Donna on a Mercury News guest book.

MEET THE

Mike, a UCLA graduate, grew up in Los Angeles. He moved to the Peninsula in order to finish Law School at Stanford. After serving as City Attorney in Mt View, he went into private practice locally where he specialized in trial work, mainly in the eminent domain area until his retirement in 2003. Mike has previously served on the Board as Unit Games Chairman in 2008 and this year as President. His primary motivation in running again is to seek a resolution of the problems which arose in the flood at the Center last February and to oversee any potential litigation which might arise as a result. Mike and his wife Marcella have four children.



Mike Atherton



Steve Barasch

Steve is an Easterner with degrees from Clarkson and Rutgers. He first played duplicate more than 30 years ago while working in New Jersey, but then took a long hiatus from the game until recently. He retired from Apple then spent some time as a soccer ref before his knees told him to stop. Now he puts his brain rather than his knees to work. His visibility at the Unit will increase in 2010 because Steve has kindly agreed to help the Unit grow and prosper both by becoming a Board member and by chairing our 2010 Firecracker.

Sue is a lifelong Palo Alto resident with a Stanford MBA. After her career in finance and corporate development she increased her volunteer time and currently loves teaching English as a Second Language. Another retirement goal was taking up bridge again after a 40 year hiatus, which she did three years ago. And now she's hoping to help us too. She says she is particularly interested in the education the Unit offers--the lessons, the lectures and the mentor program, all of which really add to the terrific experience.



Sue Griswold

Thanks to **Roy Robinson** for these photos!

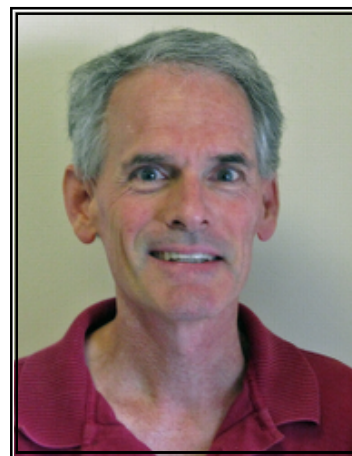
CANDIDATES



Lu Isaacs

Having vowed as a child never to play bridge because of the bickering she heard when her parents played, Lu cautiously signed up for bridge lessons a few years ago as an experiment. What she found pleased her so much that she helped start the *Just For Fun* game as a place where relative newcomers might practice their skills; it's still going strong on Tuesday eves. It sounds like she's hooked. In her words, "The more I learn about the plasticity of the brain and the value of community and having fun, the more I appreciate our Bridge Center and would like to contribute to the health of the Unit."

Terry says he was born and raised in America's Dairyland, home of cheese, beer, and brats, but he has thrived in the Bay Area for almost 15 years. After a lengthy career in international investments, he obtained his California Real Estate Broker's license and currently manages an investment portfolio. Terry is an avid runner and golfer, a passionate newcomer to bridge and in June passed the ACBL's Director Exam. He assures us, "I look forward to attracting new members, voicing your concerns, solving the challenging issues facing Unit 503, and making the Palo Alto Unit the *Gold Standard* in District 21".



Terry Lancaster



John Mattis

John, a Burbank native, received his M. E. degree, then did product design, machine design and structural analysis during his 40-year working career. In his spare time he enjoys skiing, sailing, bicycling, swimming and doing projects around the house.

John has been playing bridge since 1963 and duplicate since 2001. He is a club owner and director along with his wife Linda. He also does minor repairs at the Bridge Center. John feels that newer players should come to the club to play against the better players to help improve their knowledge of the game. He tries to create a friendly atmosphere during the games that he directs.

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
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.	Will Watson	
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 Appreciation Pairs, Wednesday, October 28 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Club championship, Thursday, October 29 at noon, Thur. Afternoon BC
- Sectional, October 29 at Bridge Center, Fresno
- Unit Thanksgiving Pot Luck, Sunday, Nov. 1 at 11:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Pairs, Open and 99er Flights, Sunday Nov. 1 at 12:45 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Swiss, Open and 99er, Monday, Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Thursday, Nov. 5 at 10 a.m., Bridge Center. Eric Mayefsky on Interference Bids.
- Membership game, Friday, Nov. 6 at 10:30 a.m., Friday Morning BC
- Sectional, Saturday, Nov. 7, at San Ramon, Iron Horse Middle School
- Club championship, Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Saturday, Nov. 14 at El Cerrito, Community Ctr
- Club championship, Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Unit lecture, Thursday, Nov.19 at 10 a.m., Bridge Center. Eric Mayefsky on Interference.
- Club championship, Friday, Nov. 20 at 10:30 a.m., Friday Morning BC
- Sectional, Friday, Nov. 20 at Holy Redeemer Ctr, Oakland

Club Closings

- Thursday, November 27, Thanksgiving, Thurs. Afternoon BC, Sherie's BC

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