



# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLVIII, Issue 12, December, 2010

The Unit will deal its members a big hand with an invite to its annual holiday celebration on Sunday, December 19 with a pairs game at 1 p.m. followed by a dinner catered by Chef Chu. The Unit Trophy Chair will present the Unit Sportsmanship Trophy and Service Plaque to the 2010 winners. The bridge format will feature both stratified open and 199er sections. The game and dinner are free, but limited to 70 Unit member partnerships because of space restrictions. Please note that this means that *both you and your partner must be Unit members*. Partnerships must sign up either on the bulletin board at the Bridge Center or on the Unit website by the December 12 deadline. Sign up early because this game is hugely popular. The Unit may impose a \$20 penalty for players who sign up and don't cancel if they cannot play. To withdraw a signup, contact Phyllis Gaffney at 408-730-0654 or Gaffney [2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net](mailto:2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net).

Please bring an *unwrapped* new toy as a donation. Unwrapped is the most important thing. Please keep the older kids in mind -- those who are beyond the teddy bear age -- who tend to get left out in these toy drives. A teenage consultant assures us that iTunes gift cards are still hot. Books are welcome as are teddy bears. Gift cards from Amazon, Borders or even Target will be well received. We all know that good things come in small packages. Toys will go a local charity, the organization to be determined.

**Party Time!**  
**Sun. Dec. 19, 1 p.m.**  
**Free Unit Game and**  
**Catered Dinner**  
**Unit Members Only**



Players who reside outside the Unit's geographical boundaries, which include Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto and Stanford, need to make sure they are Unit members and eligible to play in the Unit Game on Sunday, December 19. If you should change your

address to one outside those boundaries, you will be automatically transferred to another Unit unless you contact the ACBL to request membership in the Palo Alto Unit 503. If in doubt about your membership in Unit 503, go to ACBL website [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org), select **members**, then **My ACBL**. Or phone the ACBL and inquire about your Unit.

**Are you a Unit Member?**



Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit's website, [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com)

## Silver to Sparkle at Holiday XIX STAC

Santa is coming to town the week of Monday, December 7 through Sunday, December 13 bringing the 19th Holiday STAC (Sectional Tournament At Clubs) played throughout the Western Conference. Your local club will be giving away extra masterpoints to those who shine in these games, which feature great competition. The winners' points will glitter with silver! See the *Kibitzer* directory on the back page to find the lucky games to grab all these masterpoints. All clubs except The EZ Game will hold a STAC.

## Unit Names Five New Board Members

Election Chair Susana Krulevitch has announced the results of the November Unit election. The members selected Valerie Baldwin, Keith Burnett, David Crosley, Beverly Nuding and Allen Wolman. They will join current members: Mike Atherton, Steve Barasch, Sue Griswold, Lu Issacs, Terry Lancaster and John Mattis to form the 2011 Board. The Unit expresses its gratitude to the outgoing Board members for their service: Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mafefsky, Grant Spaeth, Betsy Steele and Dave Wheeler. The Unit members cast 58 number ballots.

## Like Teams? Come to 199er Swiss on Monday Night

Bridge may be the players' favorite game, but the Giants upstaged bridge as they played the clinching World Series contest. Alas, only four teams participated in the 199er Swiss Teams on Monday, November 1. The winning spot went to the team of Polly Siegel, Larry Lasher, Carol Kemper, Eileen Zefting. Thanks go to the director Sue Johnston.

The Unit is sure that on December 6, the Monday Night 199er Swiss team players will be back at the Bridge Center at 6:30 p.m. ready for bridge rather than baseball.



At this time of year we fondly remember friends and family and times shared with them. Most of us also enjoy memories of people who are no longer with us here. So, in the spirit of the season, we thought you might want to remember fondly times shared with Gene Van Tاملen, Karen Hopkins, Marjorie Marx, Jim Owens, Virginia Fenerin, Geoffrey Blood, Nancy Evans, Sheila Goldshine, Don Palermo, Jack Pickart, Mary O'Malley, Donal Duncan, Caroline Macey, Irene Pingree, Mary Ann Larkin and Jenny Solveson.

**Bridge Center Rehab** - Following the October meeting of the Board, there was a meeting scheduled which involved the environmental engineer, the rehabilitation contractor, Twisters and the Unit. The meeting took place on October 21, but no one from Twisters appeared, nor was reachable by phone. This denied access to the engineer and the contractor to portions of the building outside the Bridge Center. Consequently, everything had to be re-scheduled, and the meeting took place on November 2. An estimate is now being prepared to cover the cost of the work deemed necessary by the engineer. When this is available, the parties can meet to see if they can reach agreement on when the work will be done and who will be paying. Hopefully, by the next edition of the *Kibitzer*, we'll have some answers. Meanwhile, the Board is intensifying efforts to locate an alternate site for the Bridge Center on a "long term" basis.

**Take It or Lose It** - Check the Bridge Center closet for your belongings. Did you leave a coat behind? Hurry, Hurry! Closet contents will soon go to Goodwill.

**Lecture** - On Tuesday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. at the Bridge Center, Sue Johnston will reveal the secrets of "End Plays."

**News from the Library Corner** -The Unit library at the Bridge Center will be open for 1/2 hour before the start of some games. Did you know that our library has a book called "Journalist Leads" co-authored by Unit member Larry Rosler and Jeff Rubens? The purpose of the book is to "show that traditional opening-lead methods are of no particular merit." It discusses alternative opening leads with many examples. Parts of the book are based on articles that were written under the pen name 'Journalist' for two magazines - *The Bridge Journal* and *The Bridge World*. Larry and his partner Sid Lorvan play at the Bridge Center from time to time.

**Heard at the Bridge Center** - "I am not responsible for my partner's bids."

**Updated Directory** - The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2011 Directory will be issued in the spring and is free to all Unit 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 let Lori Spaeth (650) 947-9370 [spaeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spaeth@sbcglobal.net) know or complete the form at your local club before February 15.

## Bridge Bits



### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Deborah Machlin, Carol Burnett, Keith Burnett, Stephen Cooper, Tony Jackson, Gerald Patrick and Idonna Snow.

## It Seems to Me by Gersh

In a recent duplicate game the bidding of one hand at one table was an example of bridge at its worst. East was dealer and opened 4D. South and West passed and North bid 4H, East bid 5D. South doubled and all passed. East went down one trick to give NS a top on the board.

1. East's opening bid of 4D was bad because EW now could not reach 3NT which was their best contract. As a rule an opening bid of four in a minor is bad in first or second seat. In third seat, after partner has passed, it is OK, since there is no possibility of 3NT.

2. For North to bid 4H, I recommend that North must hold a good opening bid and at least five hearts. This is a gamble, of course, but I have found it pays off. On this hand North did have five hearts and 14 HCP, but three of these points were the singleton DK. So, effectively North held only 11 HCP and should have passed.

3. East's bid of 5D was atrocious. In effect East is saying that he doesn't trust partner to make a good decision. Because East has opened with a bid that described his hand within narrow limits, he should let his partner be the captain.

Strange as it may seem, both North and East were better than average players. The hand came up late in the session, so they might have been tired.

### Newcomer Games

- Monday morning (>50 & >200)
- Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)
- Wednesday afternoon (<50)
- Wednesday evening (<200)
- Friday morning (<30)

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 7, at 3:45 p.m.  
Bridge Center

### Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Michael Atherton, President  
Sue Griswold, Treasurer  
Terry Lancaster, Secretary  
Steve Barasch, Phyllis Gaffney,  
Lu Isaacs, John Mattis, Grant Spaeth,  
Betsy Steele, Dave Wheeler.

### Player Advancements

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Lawrence Haugh, Lori Mirek, Ken Pelowski
Club Master	20 MP	Jim Hubbard, Raj Khanna
Sectional Master	50 MP	Kip Kado, Larry Lasher, Manda Thatte, Peggy Wheeler
Regional Master	100 MP	Evelyn Kamas, Michele Musy
NABC Master	200 MP	Chris Chung, David Crosley, Lynne Louise Johnson
Life Master	300 MP	Han-Yu Chang
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Charles Epps
Silver Life Master	1 K MP	Gabriella Bowling



Lessons are vitally important if we are going to attract new members and maintain current members. Even if only 10% of the students in the classes become regular duplicate members, we have done our job.

**BEGINNING AND BEYOND** Kathy Harper teaches two daytime classes per week to a class of 75 (a sellout) for beginners, "Play and Learn Beginning Bridge," – 12 lessons on Thursday mornings and basic intermediates "Polish Your Basics," – 10 lessons on Tuesday mornings on bidding, play, defense and various conventions

There will also be a new four-week Defense class starting March 1. Kathy's bridge classes consist of short lectures followed by play of carefully constructed hands to illustrate the principles presented in the lectures. Analyses of problems encountered in bidding and play of these hands conclude each session. She encourages the students to participate in the discussions.

**INTERMEDIATE** After completion of these lessons coupled with playing, students are ready for the more challenging Intermediate I and II classes on Thursday nights given by Frank Smoot and organized by Lori Spaeth. Each is a 12-week course; the material contains new ideas for about 95% of the people who currently play bridge. There is so much to these classes, Frank always adding a little more, that many students have repeated them. Both classes had over 85 enrollees this past year!

Helpers in both classes are invaluable to the success of such large groups. Fortunately many people have volunteered to help. We want to acknowledge the people who have given so much time and effort to make all the classes a huge success. Beginning and Basic Intermediate helpers: Fabien Lubais, Adele Kellman, Fred and Carol Schwerer, Nancy Sabbag, Sheryl Johnson, Carolyn Chaney, Ginny Strock, Mary MacLellan, Amy Moskivitz, Marilyn Stallings, Marcelo Gumcio and Phyllis Gaffney. Intermediate I and II (current) helpers: Alan Templeton, Jan Samuels, Joyce Sogg, Dave Wheeler, Cheryl Haines, Omer Barnir, Gary Porter, Marian Kelly, Polly Siegel, Sue Griswold, Nancy Rude and Merle Orelove.

Kathy's Beginning and "Polish Your Basics" classes start in September and end in the spring. The Defense class begins March 1. Intermediate I starts in September; Intermediate II starts in February. Both series of classes will repeat in 2011/2012. For more information and to register on line, go to our website: [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com) and click on Classes.

If you know of people who need a little encouragement to learn our wonderful game in a friendly environment, with terrific people and competent teachers, the Bridge Center is the place, so please encourage them. Also, for those of you who have played for years and years and years...you'd be amazed how much you'll learn in the Intermediate classes. Join us – we have a lot of fun!

## Report on Bridge Lessons by Lori Spaeth

*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.	Coleman/Prior	
	Monday Morning JCC	Open/<50,200	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
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	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Thursday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	John & Linda Mattis	
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Marolyn Imaoka Yancey	
	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 Championship, Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Sectional, Friday, Nov.19 at Holy Redeemer Ctr, Oakland
- Unit Pot Luck, Sunday, Nov. 21 at Noon, Bridge Center
- Unit Pairs, Open & 199er Flights, Sun, Nov. 21 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, Dec. 3 at Orangevale, Community Ctr
- STAC, Monday, Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 12 at all clubs
- 199er Unit Swiss STAC Teams, Mon., Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit lecture on "End Plays" by Sue Johnston, Tues., Dec. 7 at 10 a.m., Bridge Center
- STAC Wednesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. Doubleton BC, Sign-up required
- Unit stratified pairs, awards, dinner, Sunday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center. Unit membership and reservation required.

### Club Closings

- Wednesday Nov. 24: Doubleton BC
- Thursday, Nov. 25 Thanksgiving: Thurs. Morning JCC BC, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- During STAC: Friday, Dec.10, The EZ Game
- Christmas Eve, Friday Dec.24: Friday Morn. BC, Friday Night Barometer
- Christmas: Saturday, Dec. 25: One Club

### Club Contacts

Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398  
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917  
 Sherie Greenberg (650) 856-7941  
 Sue Johnston (510) 505-0275  
 John/Linda Mattis (408) 739-7812  
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929  
 John Prior (408) 745-0380  
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424  
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987  
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731  
 Marolyn Yancey (408) 532-6437

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