



# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVIII, Issue 7, July, 2010

The Firecracker Sectional is almost here! Once again, it will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center from Thursday, July 1 to Monday, July 5. Further information and a full schedule are on the club's website, in the June *Kibitzer* and in our ad in the *Forum*. Even though it's past their official deadline, the Hyatt has said the \$89 special room rate is still available. Ample parking with elevator accessibility is conveniently adjacent to the Convention Center.

A no-host lunch buffet will be available on Saturday, Sunday and Monday with a tasty selection of sandwiches, salads, beverages and other treats. No buffet will be available for the Thursday and Friday afternoon and evening games.

**All About Coffee** Last year many players asked about the lack of available coffee during the morning games. Our tournament chair, Steve Barasch, spoke at length with the powers that be at the Convention Center. The issue is that we cannot charge for coffee or even accept donations. So having coffee available would result in considerable additional charge to the Unit., and the decision was therefore made that we *cannot provide morning coffee to players*.

Players can purchase coffee and tea at the Hyatt adjacent to the Convention Center and there will be signs to advise players of the location. There will be coffee at the no-host lunch buffets. So, for all you coffee lovers, remember to purchase your coffee before entering the convention center or you can always bring your own.

**All About Volunteers** The success of our tournament depends on **you!** Please help by volunteering to help any of the following committee chairs:

Steve Barasch, Tournament Chair (408)732-6663,  
barasch1@ix.netcom.com

Phyllis Gaffney, Hospitality (408) 730-0654,  
2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net

Fran Bennett, Partnerships (650) 838-9451,  
franbennett@sbcglobal.net

Allan Wolman, Setup/Takedown (650)967-2220,  
allenwolman@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Lemm, Caddies (650) 493-8017, cblemm@wans.net

As at the 2009 Firecracker, the results of the tournament will be available on a same day basis on the Unit website. Looking forward to another great tournament and fun

**Firecracker  
Details:  
Rooms, Food,  
Coffee, and es-  
pecially, Help!**



## Play to Qualify for North American Pairs

The July calendar has two NAP qualification matches, both on Wednesdays. The Bridge 'n Brunch has set July 14 at 11 a.m. and the Doubleton Club, July 21 at 7 p.m. Players who place in the overalls in their respective strata earn sectional-rated half red and half black masterpoints. Any player scoring average or higher or finishing in the upper half will be eligible for the next qualification round (see the June Forum, p. 1).

## Swiss Teams, a Hit Again and Again

On Sunday, May 20 the Unit Swiss Teams again scored with 18 teams in the open flight and 7 in the 199er. In the open, Sherie Greenberg's team including Jim O'Neil, Don Rothschild and Tahir Gokcen had a huge win averaging over 17 out of 20 victory points per match. B strata winners were Barbara Dahl, Steve Conaway, John and Susan Wachsman. In the 199er flight, the team of Joe Buchanan, Joy Barrett, Robert Bergey and Shirley Streifer triumphed.

At the 10-team 199er Swiss on Monday, June 7, the leader in A1 was Miu Wong, C J Jameson, Zizhuo Wang and Alex Lovejoy. In B1C1, victory went to Gina Norberg, Kathleen Weiman, Rochelle Gutmann and Ann Wainright.

Thanks go to directors John Mattis, Kevin O'Leary, Sue Johnston and to chairs Phyllis Gaffney and Eric Mayefsky for making sure everyone enjoyed the games.

## Applause

by  
Lori Spaeth

The 12-week Intermediate II class is over. Frank Smoot is a superb teacher and lecturer. We've worked together on classes for 15 years for the Unit; he is simply the best and one of the kindest and most generous men I have ever met. And thank God for the volunteers. Their services distinguish these classes from all others. Alan Templeton, Jan Samuels and Omer Barnir have been there from the beginning, about four years ago. Alan is usually the first there and the last to leave and is always ready to help with anything. Alice Arnold and Joyce Sogg followed soon after. As our enrollment grew Marian Kelly, Dave Wheeler, and Polly Siegel joined us. Thanks also to new volunteer Cheryl Haines who recruited volunteers Paul Cornelius, Gary Porter, and Vandana Vidwans. Our volunteers run the gamut of recent graduates of the class (Polly and Omer) to a Gold Life Master (congrats, Gary). I think varying skill levels gives valuable perspectives to both the students and the teachers.

In addition, I would like to mention that for this last class, Frank's wife Lisa, who attended the California Culinary Academy, concocted one fabulous dessert after another every Thursday, especially for the class. Thank you, Lisa.

We will repeat Intermediate I in September 2010 and Intermediate II in February 2011.

**Firecracker Volunteers** - *needed for set up and take down.*

Set up begins at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 1, and if everything goes right, should take less than two hours. The job consists of carrying folding tables from a cart to their proper position on the floor and setting them up, plus tying plastic trash bags to the tables and distributing and opening bidding boxes. Allen Wolman will have a light lunch/snacks and drinks for the workers.

Take down consists of folding everything back up again and commences at the conclusion of the games on Monday, July 5, probably around 6:15-6:45. If you are able to help, please call Allen Wolman at (650) 967-2220 or email to [allenwolman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allenwolman@sbcglobal.net).

**Name Badges** - Phyllis Gaffney wants to remind everyone who doesn't own a name badge that they cost only \$10. and that she will order them, hopefully in time for the Firecracker. Contact her at [2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net](mailto:2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net) or (408) 730-0654.

**Art** - The new exhibit at the Bridge Center displays landscapes painted in oil by Gary Coleman. Being a third generation Northern Californian, the area's landscape speaks powerfully to him. He tends to lean toward warm colors (lots of ochre, yellows, oranges). inspired by a lifetime of seeing California summer grasses. His goal is to share with the viewer some of what California is to him.

**Library** - The Unit website book list now indicates which books are new acquisitions and the publishing dates for all books. To get to the list, go to the web page and under the heading 'Education', click on 'Library'. There also is a printed list on the side of the library bookcase at the Club. This month's new books are by Marty Bergen. We hope you will find them useful: *Bergen's Best Bridge Tips*, *Better Slam Bidding with Bergen*, *Declarer Play the Bergen Way*, *Introduction to Negative Doubles*, and *To Open, or Not to Open*.

**Caroline Macey** - Many of you know Caroline by her big smile and her always-cheerful demeanor. She still has that marvelous lilt in her voice, but her words have changed a bit-- she is saying that she has hung up her cards. She's less able to manage to get to a game, feels weaker than previously and has become rather shaky, so she thinks she won't visit the Club any more. Perhaps some of you might want to send her a card or even stop by her home to play a few hands with her. She lives at 3072 Waverley in Palo Alto, 94306. You can find her there or at (650) 494-8141. Or send her an email message so that she can get more use out of her new iPad, which she says she just loves! That address is [camacey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:camacey@sbcglobal.net).

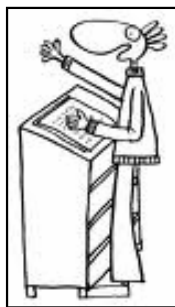
**Youth Players** - Just a reminder for those players who are 19 years of age and younger to register at [www.youth4bridge.com](http://www.youth4bridge.com) by July 1 for the Youth NABC in New Orleans, July 29-31.

## Unit News



# Lecture Review

## By Alan Cummings



Dave Bernstein's May 28th lecture has concluded the 16-lecture 2009-10 series. When added to the previous year, the total is 33. Hurray!! An average of 50 people attended and weathered the time change to 9:00 a.m. starting in January.

Thanks to all our 11 lecturers who tantalized us with new conventions, bids, partnership agreements, and ways to communicate with partners and understand opponents' bidding. You can find all the lecture notes on the Unit's website [paloaltobridge.com](http://paloaltobridge.com). Click on Lectures; you'll find quite a collection!

Looking to 2010-11 the series will move to *Tuesdays* from 10:00am - 11:30am. The first lecture will be September 14 and fall dates will be on the website later in the summer.

Over 200 attendees are on the Lecture Series e-mail list, which announces upcoming dates and topics. If you wish to add your name, contact Lori Spaeth at [spaeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spaeth@sbcglobal.net). I promise you will enjoy the lectures.

Many have asked about the funding for the series. It is due in thanks to many who have made tax-deductible donations totaling over \$20,000 to the ACBL Educational Foundation for our Unit's exclusive use. The funds are available for the lecture series, our Unit Library, and other educational programs. Please consider a donation and also volunteer to create new programs for our members.

Please look on our website to make a donation and/or contact Alan Cummings, 650-619-6664, [alan.cummings@stanford.edu](mailto:alan.cummings@stanford.edu), to volunteer.

### Newcomer Games

- Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)
- Wednesday afternoon (<50)
- Wednesday evening (<20) & (<200)
- Friday morning (<30)

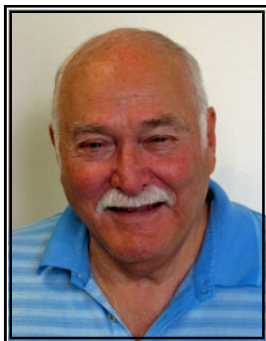
### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Peter Barba, Dana Bisconti, Jolene Cole, Jon Rayden, Marcia Thompson, Kate Horricks, Helen LaRash and Jun Shi.

### Player Advancements

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Paul Adriani, Jenny Blaschke, Mary Ann Hayward, Deanna Mann
Club Master	20 MP	Wendy Benveniste, Andrew Dentai, Judy Goodnow, Jacquie Reynolds-Rush
Sectional Master	50 MP	Sara Sevey, Isha Thapa
NABC Master	200 MP	Bill Garrett, Laura Ginger Tanner
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	David Kane



We doubtless can thank the Spaeths for our pleasant, happy President, Mike Atherton. One day at Michael's restaurant Mike ran into Grant Spaeth, who suggested they start playing bridge together. And why did Grant suggest that? It was "Because his wife told him to get another partner." Every Tuesday since, (well, *almost*) Mike has been playing with Grant.

And as if that weren't enough, Mike tells us, "Lori put me on the Board." Soon after, Mike "inherited" the presidency and consequently "inherited" the flood. That has been a continuing problem for him, as the air quality continues to be monitored and as he looks into other possible locations. He has our welfare in mind as he bears the burdens of the presidency, always with a twinkle in his eye.

Born in South Africa, the middle son of three boys, Mike came to the US when he was three and spent his youth in Hollywood, where his stepfather worked in classical music. From the ages of five to ten he attended a Catholic military boarding school—and hated it—and then went to a "serious" high school in West Hollywood for Jesuit preparedness. At UCLA he majored in English Literature, and then came to Stanford Law School.

After a year of law practice in San Francisco and a stint as City Attorney in Mountain View, he went into private practice, specializing in eminent domain cases. When the town of Alviso flooded in 1980, he sued on the town's behalf the city of San Jose and the Water District. (Are floods following Mike around?) That case ended in 1989, with a big settlement for all the clients—and a triple bypass for the attorney.

So when did he have time to play bridge? He used to spend "working vacations" in Palm Desert where he could make court appearances by telephone; that left him time to get started at social bridge. His teacher was his wife, Marcella, whom he had married in 1983. With his first wife, who had died in 1976, he had four children; they and six grandchildren all live in the area. Recently, the grandchildren clustered around his swimming pool where a duck is mothering nine babies, hatched on May 3.

In 2003 Mike retired as an attorney. While his wife was recovering from a knee injury, Mike managed to fall while playing tennis. "Are we going to have to put up two hospital beds in here?" she asked, and that called for his retirement from tennis.

Now it's bridge and movies and travel—two very special months in Italy recently. And after many other trips to Europe, he's looking forward to a trip to Ireland—"part of my background." He loves our bridge club, "It is great, with good friends; people who don't take the game as life and death." And he loves the game itself, "The intellectual challenge is endless; the combinations of cards are mind boggling."

## Mike Atherton

By

Mary Van Tamen

### Sympathy

The Unit board and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Nancy Evans, Sheila Goldshine, Don Palermo and Jack Pickart, who played in the Unit clubs and who recently passed away.

*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	
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	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<20 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

- Sectional, Saturday, June 26, at Senior Center, Gilroy

**PALO ALTO SECTIONAL Thurs. July 1 – Mon., July 5,**

**Convention Center, Santa Clara**



- All clubs closed from Thursday, July 1 -Monday, July 5**
- Sectional, Saturday, July 10 at Vintage House Sr. Ctr., Sonoma
- NAP Qual. game Wednesday, July 14 at 11 a.m. Bridge 'n Brunch
- NAP Qual. game, Wednesday July 21 at 7 p.m., Doubleton Club
- 299er Sectional, Saturday, July 24 at Monterey Bridge Center, Marina

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

Tuesday, July 6, at 3:45 p.m.  
Bridge Center

**Palo Alto Unit 503 Board**

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

**Club Contacts**

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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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