



# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVIII, Issue 5, May, 2010

It's time to mark your calendars for our annual Firecracker Sectional Tournament at the Santa Clara Convention Center on Thursday, July 1 through Monday, July 5. So start making your plans to help make this year's competition another huge success. We hope to exceed last year's fantastic attendance record for a sectional. It is at the same venue as last year, the Great American Ballroom and upstairs meeting room at the Santa Clara Convention Center at 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara Hotel. Once again the hotel is offering a special bridge rate of \$89 per night which for a first class facility is less than last year's cost. Enjoy the convenience of the large parking structure with free parking and with elevator access to the Convention Center.

**Firecracker  
Tournament  
Will Explode Soon!**

The tournament will have something of interest for players of all levels with many Open Pairs and Swiss Team games, and once again we are featuring 199er pair games (cont. on p. 4)

First up on deck is the Charity Open and 199er Pairs on Sunday, April 25 at 1 p.m. Win extra masterpoints, benefit the ACBL charities and honor the Unit's Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney 2009 winners and the newest Life Masters and enjoy the fun of your favorite game, all at one event.

**Get Your Future  
Unit Games Here!**  
  
(we predict several  
home runs)

Next in the line-up is the Monday Night Swiss for teams with a masterpoint average of fewer than 200. That's Monday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. There's an extra treat waiting this night with your chance to stack up silver masterpoints. Yes, it's a STAC game. To signup, enroll on the Unit web site.

Finally, the Swiss are here again bringing masterpoints for everyone. The Unit Game on Sunday, May 23 at 1 p.m. is an Open and 199er Swiss Teams; FREE to all 199er teams. Got that? Your friendly Unit says FREE. Round up your favorite players and form a team for an event where almost everyone is a winner. Sign-up on the Bridge Center bulletin board or enroll on the Unit web site.

All of these events are at the Bridge Center with lots of good eats, lots of fun, lots of masterpoints and lots of great cards in interesting hands and very few strikeouts.



## LORNA CORBETTA 1917-2010

By Mary Ann Berg

We must bid a fond farewell to a woman who was the heart of the Palo Alto Bridge Unit for over 50 years. She was the "Good Will Ambassador" to all new members. She greeted everyone and offered to partner them if they had no one else with whom to play.

Lorna played bridge seven days a week, with almost a perfect attendance record. Her wonderful sense of humor was aided by her mischievous twinkle, quick wit, smile, and laugh. She was a big flirt and made eyes at all the men, in innocent fun. She cared about people and how they were doing. When chided for her questioning, she would retort, "I'm writing a book".

Lorna could always be counted on to do anything for the club. She was chairman of Hospitality and Caddies at the sectional for many years. She was the Sunshine chairman of the Unit, sending messages in times of happiness and sadness. The Unit recognized her contributions by honoring her



with the Unit Sportsmanship Award. She also received the District 21 Goodwill Award and was a finalist in the national Goodwill awards.

Lorna was a proud Nebraskan who lived in many places in the U S and Europe. She studied education at Cadron State and business at Columbia. She was a teacher in a one room schoolhouse, a sergeant in the US Army, a pilot, a charity worker and a mother. She raised

three children with her husband Louie Corbetta. Being a mother and grandmother was probably her primary job.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her and loved her. She is probably speaking to the higher powers right now, organizing a bridge game in her new abode and working on St. Peter to be her partner.

## Frolic at the Spring Fling STAC

The Spring Fling STAC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) makes its appearance from Monday, May 3 through Sunday, May 9 at the clubs throughout the Unit. This is a sectional tournament played simultaneously in local clubs throughout the Western Conference. The ACBL promotes attendance by offering silver points and inflated masterpoint awards while playing in your home club comfort. Come out to this masterpoint bonanza to win sectionally rated points at all the clubs listed in the directory except Easy Bridge. The competition is great, the masterpoint awards are high, and there is a hoard of silver points awaiting the winners.

**Art** -“Africa, Santa Cruz and Beyond,” is the theme of the fascinating photography exhibit at the Bridge Center. With these images, the photographer, Gere Heine, attempts to describe experience, communicate feeling, stir emotion and offer inspiration. He wishes to encourage all efforts to preserve, respect and revere our natural world. Gere Heine states that copies of the photos are available for purchase in other sizes, with or without framing. The information is posted on the wall near the director’s desk.

**Ace-Mini** - The Unit has posted the 2010 Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenny race standings as of March 31 on the Bridge Center bulletin board.

**Dress code** - For safety, the Unit requires that players have on appropriate footwear while moving about the playing area.

**Bridge Center Rehab** - The Executive Board of Alan Cummings, Alan Templeton and Mike Atherton reported to the Board of Directors its progress in exploring a future home for the Bridge Club. The BOD expressed its appreciation to volunteers, Terry Lancaster, Robert Lawrence, John Hornback and Duane Coleman for giving of their time and expertise in helping the Executive Committee keep this project moving along.

**Big Game** - On March 19 Ed Barlow and Juanita Girand had a 70.37% game!!!

**Lecture Series** - May 13 and 27. Please see web site for details.

**Get to Know** — the new owner of Sherie’s BC, **John Schwartz**. He’s a graduate of Cornell and Harvard Law School with a PhD in physics from Rochester. John served on the Stanford faculty then became Stanford’s General Counsel. John currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of a biotechnology company and President of a registered investment management company. After a long stint away from bridge, he returned to the game seven years ago and has been directing some invitational clubs. His hobbies include flying, skiing, fly fishing, tennis and bridge.

How’s he doing so far? In John’s words, “At our first game last week there were good comments about the Bridge Pad units, the refreshments and the comfortable room temperature.. So, it looks like we’re on the right track. There are always so many ways to improve, and the goal is to keep working on it. I hope that Unit members will pass on to me any thoughts or comments they think would be helpful to know.”

John wishes to thank everyone who has been so supportive already with his new career. These kind folks include John and Linda Mattis, Alan Templeton, Cres Cole, Alan Cummings and the many other Unit members who have been so encouraging.

## Bridge Bits



### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Penny Ewing, Peter Ewing, Sheila Hochman, Garner Kelly, Patricia Murray, Libby Russo, John Thomas, Gaurav Agrawal, Naren Gupta, Vinita Gupta, Kit Humphrey and Helen Mitchell.

## Unit Swiss Teams - Always a Popular Choice

On Sunday, March 28 fifteen teams, including the 199ers, played in the Open Swiss event. . The teams of Derek Fiero - Teddi Fiero - Michael Fleisher - Melinda Foos led the way in A1 B1 strata with Kathleen Weiman - Gina Norberg - Ann Wainright - Sharon Krawetz, first in C.

Nine teams participated on the first anniversary of the Monday Night Swiss held on April 5. The winners in Strata A, B, and C were respectfully Betty Rosa, Bev Nuding, Polly Siegel, Richard Recht; Dana Martin-Newman, Devesh Goyal, Michele Musy, Carol Kemper; Gina Norberg, Kathleen Weiman, Rochelle Gutmann, Sharon Krawetz.

## Firecracker

Cont. from p. 1

every day and on Sunday there will be a two-session 199'er Swiss Team game. Also, the program features three Compact KO games named the Red, White and Blue games each of which starts and ends on the same day. Additionally, there is one Bracketed KO game over Saturday and Sunday, and the traditional ending games on Monday of Open Swiss with the A/X and B/C/D sections and the above-mentioned 199'er Swiss.

Tournament Chair for his first year is Steve Barasch. The working committee chairs are: Phyllis Gaffney, Decorations and Hospitality; Fran Bennett, Partnerships; Allan Wolman, Setup and Take down; and Carolyn Lemm, Caddies. In addition, Marian Kelly is distributing and mailing flyers to the other units in District 21. Since this is a club event, your help is needed; please contact any of the above (contact information in the Unit Directory) to lend your support.

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

### Player Advancements

The ACBL March report shows that the players named at the right have moved up. Congratulations!

Junior Master	5 MP	Ron Chestnut, Lothar Klatt, Wanda McCarthy, Malcolm McLaughlin, Ellen Miller, Elizabeth Root
Club Master	20 MP	Kip Kado, Nancy Layendecker, Barbara Shukov, Elan Winkler
Sectional Master	50 MP	Ellie Bernhardt, Eric Byler, Richard Recht, Mukund Thapa
Regional Master	100 MP	Judith Gentry, Carol Kemper, Polly Siegel, Eileen Zefting
NABC Master	200 MP	Valerie Baldwin, Carolyn Lemm
Life Master	300 MP	Joan Bower
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Rose Lachman
Emerald Life Master	7500 MP	Hansa Narasimhan

# Carla Davis

by Mary VanTamelen



“Encouraging, supportive.” Those are words best describing what a bridge teacher should be. And those are the words most often used to describe Carla Davis, an energetic bridge teacher. She has taught many people—she figures about 10%

of the members in our Unit. And she has taught in many places, beginning at the big Co-op formerly on San Antonio Road, and including at the YWCA, the Elks Club, the Menlo Park and the Los Altos Recreation Centers, the Menlo and Los Altos Country Clubs, St. Simon’s Church, the JCC, as well as in people’s homes.

Carla began Easy Bridge on Fridays at our Bridge Center, starting with three or four tables and growing within two years to ten tables. Beginning with a 20 minute lesson, these sessions were designed to introduce low-level players to duplicate, and give people a “chance to learn to play well.” From that beginning, EZ Bridge, she says, “now needs four people to replace me.”

Born in Berlin, Carla moved with her family to San Francisco when she was three. She went to

Lowell High School, and then to business school in order to get a job. She worked in insurance offices for several years.

In high school her homeroom teacher started a bridge club and she and her tennis friend, Jim Davis, learned to play. She learned duplicate before rubber bridge, mastering each system—Culbertson, Goren point count, then 5-card majors, then Precision and now 2/1 Game Force—as they came along. “Jim was a marvelous bridge player and teacher as well,” she relates. They had “bridge games instead of dates.” Those “dates” led to marriage and four children, two girls and then two boys, one of whom became a Life Master at 16.

The marriage lasted 35 years. Jim died at the bridge table while playing in a Swiss Team event at a San Mateo Regional in 1977.

Tennis has been Carla’s hobby since she was 13. Nowadays, she likes to read—mostly novels—and go to the theatre and take classes. But most of her pleasure comes from teaching bridge: “I’m so satisfied when my students do well,” she says.

Her teacher’s advice? “Do the best you can and don’t give up. Enjoy the game and keep improving.” That’s Carla—encouraging, supportive.

## Sympathy

The Unit board and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Unit member Jim Owens who passed away in early March. Jim was a Life Master and Unit club owner. From 1973-1988 co-owner with Jerry Smith of St. Simon’s BC on Thurs. Eve and of Jerry and Jim’s BC on Monday night at Elwell from 1975-78. Jim also served as a Unit handyman during the Unit’s tenure at the Elwell Court location.

Virginia Fenerin, one of the original Unit members back in 1957 also passed away in March. The Unit extends condolences to her family and friends.

Unit Board and members also extend their sympathy to Unit member Judith Blood and her family and friends on the passing of member Geoffrey Blood.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, May 4, 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, Jeannette McNeil, Grant Spaeth,  
Dave Wheeler.

*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.	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

- Unit lecture, Thursday, April 22 at 9 a.m. at Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, April 24 at Catholic HS, Kentfield
- Unit Charity Pairs, Open and 199er, Sunday, April 25 at 1:00 p.m. Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, April 30 at Community Center, Orangevale
- Sectional, Friday, April 30 at River Palms Hotel, Laughlin, NV
- Great Western Spring Fling STAC, Monday, May 3-Sunday, May 9 – all clubs but EZ Bridge
- Unit Swiss STAC, Monday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- **Easy Bridge Closed Friday, May 8**
- Sectional, Friday, May 14 at Bridge Ctr. Marina
- Unit Lecture, Thursday, May 13 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center
- Unit Lecture, Thursday, May 27 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center
- Unit Swiss Teams, Open and 199er Sunday, May 23 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, May 28 at Holy Redeemer Ctr, Oakland
- Regional, Monday, May 31 at Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento

### 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  
 Eric Mayefsky mayefsky@stanford.edu  
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929  
 John Prior (408) 745-0380  
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424  
 Roy Robinson (650) 941-7978  
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987  
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731

Unit Contact: Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917 or e-mail  
[unit503@palooatobridge.com](mailto:unit503@palooatobridge.com)

**Unit 503 Web Address:**  
[www.palooatobridge.com](http://www.palooatobridge.com)

**Bridge Center Phone: (650) 940-1824**  
 District 21 Hotline: (888) 292-4612  
 Dist. 21 Website: [www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.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)