

SUMMER ISSUE



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLXIII, Issue 8, August, 2011

TWO AUGUST SWISS UNIT GAMES PLUS PRIOR UNIT GAME RESULTS

Yea, Team! The Unit will hold a 199er Swiss on Monday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m. Players may list full or partial teams on the Unit web site. On Sunday, August 14, everyone will have a chance to play in the Swiss Team Unit Game at the Bridge Center at 1 p.m. Please use the sign-up at the Bridge Center or on the website. The Unit needs advance registration to make sure that enough refreshments are available.

At the June 19 Unit Pairs, the partnership of Bonnie Janzen - Barbara Luttrell led the way in the

AB strata, with Serl Zimmerman - Steven Lipson tops in C in a nine table event. Dolly Musey and Agnes Lee scored in the five table 199er flight.

At the July 11 199er Swiss, contested among seven teams, victory in A went to Kip Kado-Barbara Shukov-Rick Flucke, Carol-Ann Ackerman with Andrew Dentai-Hedwig Fejerne-Brian Samuels-Kate Horricks winning in B.

Thanks go to the chair Keith Burnett and the directors Claire Coleman, Eric Mayefsky and Will Watson.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS, JOIN THE BOARD

This is an exciting year for the Unit as we move the Bridge Center to our new location in September. The effort and diligence of the Board of Directors and select committees have made this possible. You will enjoy playing bridge more than ever in an upgraded facility with ample parking.

In order to constantly further the quality of our Unit, we are seeking volunteers to join the Board in 2012. The term of office is two years with board members rotating every year. The Board meets once a month and duties might include serving as an officer, securing art exhibits to decorate the

walls or representing the Unit at District meetings. There are so many of you who have a great deal to offer. Please consider giving some of your time and ability to help the Unit to continue to offer players the best games and best places to play.

Elections for the Unit 503 Board of Directors will be held in November. If you are interested in filling a position on the Board, or if you know someone who might be, please contact Susana Krulevitch at susana440@sbcglobal.net or (650) 948-8882

Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit's website, www.paloaltobridge.com

HELP WANTED! (HINT: MOVE COMING...)



Our plans for The Move are going forward, and despite some bumps in the road, we are anticipating moving in September. Mike Atherton, Alan Templeton, Duane Coleman (Claire's husband), Sue Griswold, Bob

Lawrence, John Mattis and others have been burning the candle at both ends to get the process going and the building renovation finished to meet our long term needs. The reaction by those who have visited the building is always some variant on "wow!"

We are very excited that Kevin O'Leary has offered to organize The Move. We will be using a moving company, but we'll need lots of volunteers to help! We'll have sign-up sheets at the Bridge Center and on the Unit website and will be looking for people to help pack up and unpack as well

as pitch in for other jobs. There should be something that you can do even if you can't lift.

There are some things that we will absolutely need to buy, such as more card tables, chairs, side tables, bidding boxes, bridge pads, etc., for the bigger center, additional bookcases, new refrigerators (or a commercial fridge), etc. Then, there is our wish list - a new sign, replacement of the current chairs, many of which are literally on their last legs, a large LCD screen for the Barometer, classes, a defibrillator; and more. We have already had a member volunteer to donate a commercial dishwasher! We would like to really spruce up our new Center and need your help.

Please let Sue Griswold know either by email sue_g@sbcglobal.net or by phone (650) 852-1235 or send your check in the amount of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more, made payable to "Palo Alto Unit 503" at the following address: Bridge Center, 2639A Terminal Blvd, Mountain View CA 94043 ATTN: Treasurer to help us toward our goal. There will also be a box at the BC for donations.

Remember...this is YOUR Bridge Center too.

MINE THE SILVER AT STAC

Gather up a hoard of silver points at the Great Western Summer Fun **Sectional Tournament at Clubs XX** the week of August 22-28 at pairs events. As with the other STAC's, the pairs overalls will be computed across all participating clubs. All awards are silver, sectional-rated points. To review the STAC schedule, refer to the back page.

WINNERS' TROPHY LEADERS

The Unit awards the Winners Trophy annually to the member who accumulates the most points in the Unit games. Don Rothschild, a multiple winner of past trophies, and Tahir Gokcen hold the race lead with Hedvig Fejerne the top non-Life Master. The standings are: Don Rothschild-9.56, Tahir Gokcen-9.56, Sherie Greenberg-9.20, Polly Siegel-8.49, Hedvig Fejerne-8.15, Kate Horricks-7.96, Betsy Steele-7.73, Marge Yates-7.06, Chris Lazarovici-6.94, Franklin Gonzalez-6.59

BRIDGE BITS AND PIECES

Charity Game: The Thursday Morning JCC game on August 18 at 11 a.m. will honor Sherie Greenberg. All table fees will go to her favorite charity, The American Committee for the Weizman Institute of Science, Breast Cancer Research.

Hide and Go Seek: Where oh where are the *Kitibzer* copies at the Bridge Center? None at the director's desk today. Yes, we are hiding them in the corner closet next to the trophy wall. Someone needs to "seek and ye shall find" and bring them out.

Library: The latest new books are: *Standard Bidding with SAYC (Standard American Yellow Card)*, *We Love the Majors* for beginners and *Double! New Meanings for an Old Bid*, for advanced players. Our Unit library also received a large anonymous book donation including 21 new titles and three new authors! To see the books go to the Unit 503 website.

NAP: Take advantage of these opportunities to qualify at a Unit club game on Wednesday, July 20 and August 11 at 7 p.m. at the Doubleton BC, the Thursday Afternoon BC at noon and the Wednesday, July 27 at the Bridge 'n Brunch BC at 11 a.m.

Membership Growth: The July ACBL report lists the Unit membership as 955, an 8% increase over the July, 2010 total. The latest ACBL Quip report shows that the Unit leads District 21 with the highest percent for active membership trend, lowest percent of member losses and ranks fourth in new member percent gains. These outstanding figures reflect the efforts of Steve Lubeck, Lu Isaacs and Valerie Baldwin to reach a goal of 1000 members.

Overheard at the JCC on July 7: She (after he had just declared a hand), "I didn't give you much."
He: "Honey, I'm used to that. You never give me much."

Art: While you are admiring and appreciating the current art exhibit at the Bridge center, the Unit reminds the players that the art is for sale and the Unit receives 10% of the proceeds.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The June and July reports from the ACBL shows that the following players have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Stephen Aker, Maryann Hinden, Joanne Matthews, Michael Chin, Sue Kaupp, Jennifer Ewald, Annie Green, Theresa Iantosca, Pam Robertson, Marvin Siegel, Nick Ward
Club Master	20 MP	Agnes Lee, Lorraine Seelig, Min Wells
Sectional Master	50 MP	Diane Dollinger, Peter Dollinger, Kate Horricks, Bev Benson, Betty Dayharsh, Barbara Hansen, Miriam Jacob, Ann Suyeyasu
Regional Master	100 MP	Susan S. Barkley, Randy Rhody, Brian Samuels, Dan Thatte, Richard Treakle
NABC Master	200 MP	Isha Thapa, Mukund Thapa, Catharine Fisher, Michele Musy
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Reuben Israel, Polly Siegel

WE REMEMBER SHERIE

REMINISCENCES FROM SEVERAL OF SHERIE GREENBERG'S FRIENDS

Sherie Greenberg, life-long player, director, bridge educator, wife, mother and grandmother, passed away on June 25, having battled cancer for many years. It seems like everybody knew Sherie. Several of her friends have recalled their own Sherie stories and we include them here, mingled together, without author identification.

She loved helping players - especially newer ones. She was my first bridge mentor and teacher and was always available to answer my questions and everyone else's. Sherie tailored her games to welcome newer players - sit in a section intended for less experienced players and you got moved.

We had met Sherie and David many times at parties and thought what fine people, but never really knew them. Then, there was Sherie teaching bridge on a cruise that we took. That was it! We realized what fantastic people Sherie & David were. Sherie was not only beautiful but also brilliant and competitive (the four of us frequently played tennis and bridge). What fun the four of us had! She was so loving of her children, grandchildren, family, friends, bridge players. Always thinking of others.

What I remember most about Sherie is the friendship we shared. Our friendship extended to her family, as well. I enjoyed husband David's friendship as well as that of her daughters and their families (they didn't have much choice in the matter - Sherie invited me to family activities). I kidded Sherie that she was somewhere between a friend and a mother.

For over 35 years, we shared our love of old movies, passed on books we thought were interesting, and laughed, laughed, laughed. She helped me and many others accept the diagnosis of cancer and provided an abundance of encouragement during the treatment periods. And, silly as we both could get, we managed to find a little humor even in dealing with those unpleasant circumstances.

Sherie's defense was enviable. Sometimes, I would think to myself, "If only she could find a dia-

mond return, we could beat this contract. but ...there are not enough inferences at this juncture." Sure enough, she would go into the tank and back would come that diamond! With her excellent defense and expert declarer play, she became the poster girl for the idea that you don't need fancy bidding systems to become the champion that she was. Almost immediately after I returned from a 10-year absence, Sherie and I played in a NAOP qualifying event. She opened the first hand 1C and I held a stunning 25-pointer! Wow, which slam would we bid? But, hmm, I was feeling a little insecure about the meaning of subsequent bids as the only conventions marked on our card were Stayman, Blackwood and negative doubles of 1S. I decided to start off the festivities with something safe: a strong jump shift to my solid heart suit. *Alert!* During that past decade, she had added weak jump shifts to her bidding repertoire! She thought a long time about raising the preempt as a tactical bid and, of course, I was desperately hoping that she do whatever she was thinking about. Alas, she passed, but even then she was thinking about doing the right thing. Zero, of course, but we doubled up with laughter over it.

As a player, Sherie had an understanding of bridge that most of us will never have. She didn't play a lot of conventions - she preferred to use her ability to figure things out. It's true that she could have amassed far more masterpoints had she not chosen to play so frequently with friends and students rather than with pros. When she *did* attend regionals or nationals, she was a consistent winner. She had a special talent for the game that involved excellent judgment, declarer play and defense, as well as aggressiveness when appropriate.

Sherie didn't make a big deal out of her illnesses over the years. Her children and grandchildren, Cameron and Drew, were much more important and she was immensely proud of them. Even during her last uncomfortable days, she never complained.

Sherie, Sherie, we all miss you **so** much!

CALL FOR A MANAGER FOR THE EDUCATION FUND

Alan Cummings is retiring from the Education Fund, which he initiated along with Lecture Series. The Fund currently supports the Lecture Series and the Library and is also designed by the Unit to support education of the young in our favorite game and for community outreach. Donations are tax-deductible through the ACBL Educational Foundation.

We are looking for a volunteer to take over running the fund. The job can be as simple as following

our agreement with the ACBL and safeguarding the use of funds for educational programs and can be enhanced by publicizing the need for contributions and working on new education programs. Please contact Sue Griswold at (650) 852-1235 or sue_g@sbcglobal.net if you have an interest in taking over the job. We really need to find a capable person to spearhead the fund and ensure that the much-loved Lecture Series (which has been taken over by Fred Schwerer) and Library will continue.

BRIDGE CENTER RELOCATION PROGRESSING

In preparation for our meeting with the Zoning Administrator, the Site Committee met with the neighbors at the IFES property to address their concerns. Basically, they were worried about noise, parking, hours of operation, etc. Once they had a complete picture of our operation, involving primarily senior citizens with an average age over 68 years, and no music, alcohol, or screeching tires, nor late hours, they seemed very satisfied with having the Bridge Center as a future neighbor. However, they voiced concerns about noise from IFES events.

At the hearing before the Zoning Administrator, the same scene was re-enacted. Primarily, the City

wants some work done to address the noise issue and will conduct sound tests. The matter was continued to a future, undetermined date to enable IFES to work out the problems to the satisfaction of the City and the neighbors.

Meanwhile, construction has been temporarily halted while the IFES and City work out discrepancies in the construction drawings. IFES has retained our architect to help clear this up. We hope construction will resume soon.

Hopefully, by the next BOD meeting, we will have been able to secure approval for the BC's conditional use permit.

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Marcella Christoff, Louis Cole, Leonard Friedman, Allan Koehler, Russell Norman, Anna Reuter, Forrest Anderson, Sona Bhambhra, Subramanyam Chitti, Ivy Chueh, Catharine Fisher, John Fisher, Pam Robertson, Olga Schanz, Kenneth Lillis, Sally Lillis, Michael McCarver, Kay Miller, Richard Chueh, Mickie Goldsmith, Devesh Goyal, Patricia Hughes, Annette Laird, Paula Miller, Elkie Muller, Gabriele Pani and Randy Ryals.

PALO ALTO UNIT 503 BOARD

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PROFILE OF A TEAM: FRANKLIN GONZALEZ, AND HENRYK SZEJNWALD

BY MARY VAN TAMELEN

Bridge partnerships can lead well beyond bridge—to great ideas, even to great ideas that benefit bridge. These two engineer/scientists, Franklin from Venezuela and Henryk from Poland, were playing together one day and had to wait much too long, they thought, for the results. Henryk, who had been running an electronic company, Quickpad, for 20 years, thought it would be possible to develop a mechanism for quick results.

“Let’s do it,” was Franklin’s response, and thus began the partnership that resulted in Bridgepad, that wonderfully compact and competent device that we’re all using these days.

It wasn’t an easy job. “If we had known at the beginning,” Henryk says, “we might not have done it.” And Franklin adds, “But we don’t quit.” And they didn’t, in spite of many complications. They thought the project would take six months; instead it went on for eighteen. Together they drew up the specs and designed the architecture; a friend worked on the hardware; they hired a programmer. Only when they took their prototype to the ACBL they discovered that some Dutchmen were doing similar work and that the ACBL was working with them. It was necessary to have the software interface with Bridgmate. Furthermore, initially there were a “bunch of bugs,” which the directors at our club, particularly Will Watson, were helpful in working out.

Some ACBL directors use Bridgmate (it does have a larger display and a bigger keypad), but Henryk and Franklin point out that the *performance* of their Bridgepad is better.



“We do more things,” they say, and indeed they have developed enhancements for the device, like the insertion of opening leads. The latest addition is a setup for Swiss team play, which should simplify and speed up movements. Bridgepad, first used in a National tournament in 2009 in San Francisco, is now widely used, particularly in English-speaking countries.

And to think it all started with a partnership in our club!

Franklin came from Venezuela to go to school at Stanford, received his PhD in Florida, then returned to California to work with semiconductors. He is married to a psychotherapist and lives in Menlo Park. Henryk left Poland in 1968, after a brief time in prison, to escape political troubles. He studied in St. Louis; then, he worked in Boston for twenty years but left to work at Intel in California. After two years there, he started his own company. He lives in Los Altos, is a widower, and has one daughter in Colorado.

Franklin started playing bridge at work and got serious about it five years ago. Henryk has played since he was sixteen, with a hiatus of 23 years, and likes it because one is able to “forget about other things.” A session for him is a set of 24 or 27 puzzles.

Both men like to travel. Franklin’s travel tends to the comfortable, like cruises, whereas Henryk prefers adventuresome trips. Together they travel to tournaments and for Bridgepad business. Their partnership, a great one, is still going strong.

2011 LEADERS IN ACE OF CLUBS AND MINI MCKENNEY

The ACBL gives the Ace of Clubs award to the player who earns the most points in club games and the Mini-McKenney award for total points including sectionals and higher ranked tournaments. Congratulations to those who are in the lead at the midyear for 2011. The Unit has posted the compete lists at the Bridge Center.

Ace of Clubs— Paul Li, Barbara Hansen, Mirram Jacob, Brian Samuels, Don-Min Tsou, Vinita Gupta, Polly Siegel, Henryk Szejnwald, Franklin Gonzalez, Lori Spaeth, Patricia Chambers, Hansa Narasimhan and Malcolm McLaughlin;

Mini-McKenney— Todd Makler, Barbara Hansen, Miriam Jacob, Brian Samuels, Randy Ryals, Vinita Gupta, Polly Siegel, Gabrielle Uz, Geeske Joel, Barbara Sonsini, Patricia Chambers, Hansa Narasimhan and Malcolm McLaughlin.

HELP Wanted for Fall Bridge

Kathy Harper is contributing to our desire to introduce more people to the joys of the game of bridge again this fall, mid-September through February, and she hopes to find a few bridge enthusiasts willing to help.

Specifically, she will be teaching Beginning Bridge on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings and an intermediate class called "Polish Your Basics" on Thursday mornings.

The schedule is on our website, paloaltobridge.com under Classes and Beginning Bridge. Helpers will be amazed at how much *they* learn plus they will receive one free play for each class.

It is not necessary to commit to all classes.

Contact Kathy at kharp100@aol.com.

SIGN UP NOW FOR INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE LESSONS

A revamped 12-week intermediate bridge class headed by instructors Frank Smoot, Lori Spaeth and Sue Johnston begins in October. The course is designed for players with a minimum of one year of duplicate experience, focusing on intermediate bidding and defense and intermediate/advanced concepts of play. New topics include: notrump auctions, opener's rebid, opener's third bid and odds.

The cost is \$200 (\$150 to enrollees who have already taken this course and have the binder).

Please register on line at www.paloaltobridge.com, click on Classes. For more information, please contact Lori Spaeth at [650-906-3987](tel:650-906-3987).

NEWCOMER GAMES

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

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, August 2
 3:45PM
 Everyone welcome

All games take place at 2639A Terminal Blvd., Mountain View 94043 unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/ OTHER I NFO
MON	Bridge Mix	Open/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Coleman/Prior	
	Monday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
	Monday Morning JCC	<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
	Grand Slam 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, (408) 685-5323
	Grand Slam Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Marolyn Imaoka Yancey	
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
	Thurs. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	
	Thurs. Afternoon BC	<50 M.P.	12.00 p.m.	Will Watson	
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

- NAP Qual. game, Wednesday July 20 at 7 p.m., Doubleton Club
- NAP Qual. game, Thursday July 21 at Noon, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- 399er Sectional, Saturday, July 23 at Monterey Bridge Center, Marina
- Club champ., Tuesday, July 26 at 7 p.m., Grand Slam BC
- NAP Qual. game Wednesday, July 27 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- 199er Unit Swiss Teams Monday, August 1 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, August 5 at Castro Valley, Transfiguration Church
- NLM Sectional, Saturday August 13, at Fresno, Bridge Center
- Unit Open Stratified Swiss Teams, Sunday, Aug. 14 at 1 p.m. Bridge Center
- NAP qualifying game, Wed. Aug. 17 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Wednesday, August 17 at Reno, Ramada Inn
- Charity Game, Thursday. Aug. 18 at 11 a.m. at Thurs. Morn JCC
- Sectional, Saturday, August 20 at So San Francisco, Municipal Svc Bldg
- **Pairs STAC, Mon. Aug. 22 –Sun. Aug 28 all games, all locations**
- Pairs STAC, Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. at Doubleton BC. (sign-up required)
- Regional, Tues., August 30 at Santa Clara, Hyatt Regency

Club Closings

- Easy Bridge, Friday, Aug. 26
- **No games from Tuesday evening, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 5**
except Wed. Aft 49er at Unity Church at 1 p.m. will be OPEN

Club Contacts

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 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987
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