

THANKSGIVING ISSUE

# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLXVII, Issue 12, December, 2011



*Happy Thanksgiving to All!*



**HOLIDAY WRAPPED ALL IN ONE:**

**POT LUCK, AWARDS, TOYS, BRIDGE**

**COMING TO YOU SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18. COME CELEBRATE WITH US!**

The holidays are here; it's time to celebrate with good eats and great bridge on Sunday, December 18. Although our new building at the IFES is not quite ready, we have leased the large IFES hall next door at 432 Stierlin Road in Mountain View for this special event. The party begins at noon with a buffet pot luck of goodies. The Unit provides the turkey and trimmings with thanks to Beverly Nuding, who will cook and carve the bird. The Unit asks the players to bring an appetizer, side dish, salad, etc. What? No dessert? Of course there is dessert on the list too, but often there's too much of a good thing so we are encouraging other foods. The festivities continue with the presentation of the Unit sportsmanship and service awards and finally

the most important event, a Unit stratified open and 199er pairs game set for 1 p.m. The game fee is \$8; this event is *not* free to Unit members.

It is important to sign up. Please do it on the web site by Friday, December 16 or, if this is inconvenient, reserve with Keith Burnett, preferably by email [keithsr@gmail.com](mailto:keithsr@gmail.com) or phone (408) 867-5279.

As collecting toys is a Unit tradition at Christmas, we are asking players to bring an unwrapped toy for the appeal with emphasis on gifts for older kids, especially boys. Suggestions include iTunes gift cards and age-appropriate books. The Unit will again donate them to Community Services Agency of Mountain View, just up the street from IFES, at 204 Stierlin Road.

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

## WIN MASTERPOINT GIFTS AT HOLIDAY XX STAC

Santa's bag is full of masterpoints as he comes to town the week of Monday, December 5 through Sunday, December 11 bringing the 20th Holiday STAC (Sectional Tournament At Clubs) played throughout the Western Conference. Your local club will be giving away extra

masterpoints, many of them sparkling silver, to those who shine in these games. See the *Kibitzer* directory on the back page to find the lucky opportunities to grab all these masterpoints. All clubs except The EZ Game will hold a STAC.

## PAIRS PLAYED TO QUALIFY IN UNIT NAP

The Unit held a two-session qualification game for the NAP District finals at the Bayshore BC in Burlingame on Sunday, October 30.

The leaders in the 16-table event were: A, Tom Trachuk/Richard Spitalnick: B, Mike Vinyard/Jeff Hack: C, Michael Leitner/Ben Leitner. Pairs with players from the Palo Alto Unit

who successfully qualified were: in A, Gary Macgregor/Tahir Gokcen, Tom Trachuk/Richard Spitalnick: A,B,C, Michael Leitner/Ben Leitner: BC, Don-Min Tsou/Paul Li. Thanks go to Will Watson for directing the game.

## IFES BRIDGE CENTER UPDATE

At the request of the Attorney for IFES, Mr. Marc Hynes, the City Planning staff will set the date for the next hearing before the Zoning Administrator sometime in January, 2012. Also, they have assured us in writing that we can continue to occupy the address at 432 Stierlin Road under a temporary Use Permit through the end the year.

The IFES is still working with the City of Mountain View and the architects to document some minor changes to the building that need to be done.

Unfortunately, the City of Mountain View has taken a hard line and has refused to let us continue with construction while we resolve the small issues.

### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Andrea Johnson, Jeanette Latta, Michael Matthews, Georgiana Yang, Peter Chow, Marilyn Goldberg, Lois Jamart and Nancy Soltau.

## UNIT NEWS

**Construction** - Follow the week by week progress on the New Bridge Center at the IFES in the photos from Bev Nuding on the Unit web site.

**Gifts** - The holiday season came early for the Unit. Many thanks go to all those who made financial contributions for furnishing the new IFES location. During October the donations totaled over \$8000 ranging a hundred fold from \$50 to \$5000!

**Go Green to Bridge at IFES** - All of the following service the Mountain View Transit Center on Castro and Evelyn: CalTrain, VTA Light Rail, Bus routes: 34 from San Antonio Shopping Center, 35 from Stanford Shopping Center, 51 from De Anza College and 52 from Foothill College. It's an 11 min. walk (0.5 miles) via Castro St. Moffett Blvd, Central Ave and Stierlin Road from the Mountain View Transit Center.

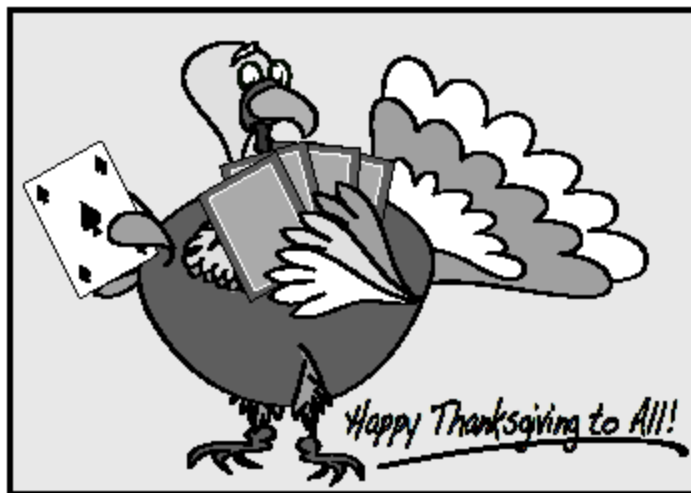
**Moving Day** - Thanks go to Kevin O'Leary for organizing the move from the Unit Terminal Blvd. Center and to the packers: Lori Spaeth,

Dave Bernstein, Carolyn Chaney, Beth Cowell, Alan Cummings, Gene Drew, Lee Haze, Lu Isaacs; John Prior, Todd Makler, Jack Lucas, Eusebio Menezes, Jolly Perchoka, Ron Perchoka, Kevin Schoenfeld, Elinor Tanck, Josephine Ventura, Dave Wheeler.

**Firecracker** - The new dates are Wednesday June 27 to Sunday July 1, 2012; different dates but the same location, Santa Clara Convention Center.

**Big Game** - Malcolm McLaughlin and Metin Gokcen had a 72.57% game on November 8.

**Updated Directory** - The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2011 Directory will be available in the spring 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) 906-3987, [le-spaeth@gmail.com](mailto:le-spaeth@gmail.com), know before February 15.



## PROFILE OF GEESKE JOEL BY MARY VAN TAMELEN



After an exciting, come-from-behind match (overcoming a 62-point deficit) last May in Detroit, Geeske Joel's team won! As a result, they just represented the United States—and by extension, our Unit and women—in the World Championships held last month in the Netherlands. Members of her

team included Jill Myers, Jill Levin, Debbie Rosenberg, Tobi Sokolow, Janice Molson and coach Eric Kokish.

Geeske hasn't been playing bridge very long—only since 2004. While in school in Wankendorf, a small town in northern Germany, her game was chess in spite of a math teacher who urged her to play bridge instead. Then for many years she was involved in studies, both in the United States and in Germany. At the age of 16 she was an exchange student in Colorado; back in college in Germany she studied earth system sciences. In 1990 she earned a Master's degree at Stanford, worked at Carnegie Institute for one-and-a-half years, then went back to Germany to finish her diploma, later earning her PhD at Stanford in biological sciences in 2000. Between her studies, she married, in 1995, Urs, a Swiss born computer expert she met at Stanford who is wonderfully supportive of all her activities.

With a new PhD in this country, she didn't have a work permit. Besides, she said, "Work is overrated."

Pursuing an interest in dogs, she became involved in the Leonberger league. Leonbergers are relatively rare, large, long-haired, floppy-eared family dogs. You may have worked your way

around Geeske's pet, Yoshka, as you entered the bridge club. That dog has since died; his daughter, Yenta, is five years old, and Geeske says she is about ready to come to the club and wait patiently for her mistress. Geeske has trained Leonberger puppies, bred them, shown them, and studied their health.

Geeske has another impressive career in photography.

After all those years of being distracted by studies and dogs and pictures, she was finally ready to follow her math teacher's advice and learn to play bridge. She played in a small group at Google, then found the Palo Alto bridge website, read "Bridge for Dummies," and Walter's booklet which Geeske says was a simple start "that gave me a framework."

In an attempt "to get better faster," she worked with Michael Rosenberg on the internet; he designed a system for her before the SF Nationals. For that tournament she hired her first team and played with his wife Debbie. The team Geeske hired for the Nationals in Las Vegas came in second twice in the board-a-match; her team won the Women's Swiss in Louisville last spring. The same team also came in 4th at the two-day Open Swiss in New Orleans.

Geeske says she'll never become a world class player—she didn't start playing until her early 40s—but her aim is "to become as good as I can as quickly as I can." She doesn't play for points, but to "maximize her learning curve." She says it's difficult to measure yourself; you need to rely on your partner to tell you where you need work. Her "absolute favorite local partner" is Will Watson.

Geeske says her bridge career has had many ups and downs and she says there's still a "huge amount of room to improve." She wrote an article



## MEMBERS PICK SIX FOR NEW BOARD

Election Chair, Susana Krulevitch has posted the results of the November Unit election. The members selected Steve Barasch, Sue Barkley, Sue Griswold, Kevin O’Leary, Margot Livenspargar and Henryk Szejnwald. They will join current members: Valerie Baldwin, Keith Burnett, David

Crosley, Beverly Nuding and Allen Wolman to form the 2012 Board. The Unit expresses its gratitude to the outgoing Board members: Mike Ather-ton, Lu Isaacs and John Mattis for their service. Unit members cast 105 valid ballots.

## THE AWARD TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

There’s still time to offer suggestions for the Unit Awards for Service and Sportsmanship to be presented at the Holiday Unit Pot Luck Game on December 18. Just go to the Unit website and scroll to the end of the Unit News on the home page and select “Make Your Nominations.” Name

your choice and the reason you think the member is worthy of the honor. If you prefer, look for the suggestion box at the three game locations and use it to offer your suggestion. Make sure to include the name of the award for your nominee. Please offer your choice by December 1.

### Geeske, continued

for Bridge Winners, “How to Become Better at Bridge,” which has been highly recommended by Larry Cohen. It indicates how hard she works at bridge and makes practical suggestions anyone can follow. According to Geeske, you just have to work hard.

And Geeske certainly does, studying, keeping journals, flash-cards and notebooks, working with her teammates, practicing on the computer.

To read her article go to [bridgewinners.com](http://bridgewinners.com) and click on Popular Articles. To see *stunning* photography from around the world, go to [geeske.com](http://geeske.com). You’ll be impressed.

## PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The November report from the ACBL shows that the following players have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Ava Norman, Hide Tanigami
Club Master	20 MP	Buz Battle, Annie Green
Regional Master	100 MP	Marnie Sharp
Life Master	300 MP	Carol Kemper
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Malcolm McLaughlin

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 7, at 2:45 p.m. at the IFES Hall.

### Sympathy

Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of long time Unit member John (Bud) McCloy who passed away recently.

*All games take place at IFES Hall, 432 Stierlin Road 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	IFES Hall
	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
	Alpine BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	IFES Hall
	Grand Slam Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Marolyn Yancey	IFES Hall
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sue Johnston	IFES Hall
	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	IFES Hall
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	IFES Hall
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	IFES Hall
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Marolyn Yancey	IFES Hall
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	IFES Hall
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	Bayshore B.C. 1300 Old Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sectional, Friday, Nov.18 at Holy Redeemer Ctr, Oakland
- Sectional, Friday, Dec. 2 at Orangevale, Community Ctr
- STAC, Monday, Dec. 5-Sunday, Dec. 11 at all clubs
- STAC Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Doubleton BC, Sign-up required
- Club championship, Thursday, Dec. 15 at noon, Thurs. Afternoon BC, IFES
- Unit Pot Luck Holiday Dinner, Sunday, Dec. 18 at Noon, IFES
- Stratified Open and 199er Pairs, Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m., IFES

### Club Closings

- Wednesday, Nov. 24 - Doubleton BC
- Thursday, Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving: Thurs. Morning JCC and Thursday Afternoon BC,
- Tuesday, Dec. 6 - Grand Slam BC
- Wednesday, Dec. 14 - Bridge 'n Brunch
- During STAC: Friday, Dec. 10 - The EZ Game
- Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24 - One Club

### Club Contacts

Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398  
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917  
 Sue Johnston (510) 505-0275  
 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

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

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

**Unit 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)  
 Chris Veres Bunz, graphic artist