



# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLIX, Issue 2, February, 2011

February will be full of Bridge fun. The 199ers will start off with the Monday Night Swiss Teams on February 7 at 6:30 at the Bridge Center. There is an optional sign-up on the Unit website.

Warm up your skills for the upcoming Regional at the Unit Stratified Open Pairs Game on Sunday, February 13 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center. Your partner may not be your sweetheart, but show your love for your partner with a smile and a friendly manner. The Unit chair, Keith Burnett, needs your help to manage a well-organized event. Please sign up on the web or on the sign-up sheet on the Bridge Center bulletin board. For further information, contact Keith at (408) 867-5279 or keithsr@gmail.com.

At the January 10 Monday Night Swiss, the leaders in the eight-team field in both A and B were: Andrew Dentai, Kate Horricks, Devesh Goyal and Hedvig Fejerne.

**We All**

**Love Bridge!\***

**Unit Pairs Game**

**Sunday, Feb. 13**



\*(see photo below for evidence)

Unit members have formed a committee to focus on methods to attract and recruit new players to join the ACBL and the Palo Alto Unit. In 2009, the membership reached 900, so a 2011 membership of 1000 is a reasonable goal. The committee chaired by Lu Isaacs includes Alan Cummings, Phyllis Gaffney, Sue Griswold, Steve Lubeck and Lori Spaeth. The packet they developed supports the overall objective of moving our great game of bridge strongly into the future and keeping our own Unit vibrant and competitive.

The packet includes materials promoting all the benefits of playing competitive duplicate bridge including the fun, excitement, lifelong learning and friendships/partnerships. It gathers all the reasons and tangible resources that come with an ACBL and Unit 503 membership into a packet enclosed in an envelope titled *Why Join ACBL ?* with a cover letter. To give the committee a hand, this issue of the Kibitzer includes a promotional page for members to distribute to prospective members, (See p 5.)

Packets are now ready for all the game directors and bridge teachers to give to those who might be "hot prospects." They are also available to any Unit member who has a friend or acquaintance who just might need a little nudge to join, but the packet is not intended for mass distribution as it does take time and money to produce. Unit members can request a packet from a director or teacher.

**2011 Goal:**

**Unit Membership  
of 1000**



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

## Hurrah For the Holiday Merrymaking!



Here's Phyllis Gaffney, our Service Award recipient.

You can find a photo of Margot Livenspargar, our Sportsmanship winner, on page 7.

Santa came to the Bridge Center on Sunday, December 19 with lots of goodies. The table was bursting with toys donated by the Unit players for him to bring to the Mountain View Community Center for parents to pass on to their children for a joyous Christmas. He brought awards to two special people: the Sportsmanship to Margot Livenspargar and the Service to Phyllis Gaffney. For the 27 tables in the Open flight and the seven in the 199er, his bag overflowed with first-rate bridge and a tasty feast. A Santa special for first-place finishes went to: Sioux Atkinson and Steve Barasch in AB, Alice and Reginald Rice in C and 199ers Beverly Bernhardt and Miriam Jacob in A, Carol and Fred Schwerer in B, and Dee and Pete Peterson in C.

Special thank-you gifts went to the director Will Watson, Unit game chairs Eric Mayefsky and Phyllis Gaffney and to Roy Robinson, photographer and toy coordinator. Many generous elves also gave a hand including hosts and hostesses who greeted players and helped them find their assigned places, others who collected and carried toys, those who brewed coffee as well as mopped up spills, and then stayed and cleaned up. Those great partners were Sue Fikes, Tom and Nancy Stevens, Roy and Julianne Robinson, Dee and Pete Peterson, John Hornback, David Crosley, Jennifer Sheppard, Josephine Ventura, Merle Orelve, Kathie Shaw, Ida Lee and Grant Spaeth

The Unit received a note of appreciation from Alison Hopkins, Volunteer Director at the Community Services Agency of Mountain View: "This year we served over 560 families thanks to you! Thank you so much for all of your wonderful toy donations. We were running very low this morning, so that big donation was very helpful. Have a great Holiday season!"

## Plans for a New Bridge Center

The Building Committee of Alan C, Alan T and Mike A gave a report to the Board. The Board authorized the Committee to finalize the lease terms with certain provisions and then empowered the President to sign the lease. Also, the BOD allowed the Committee to take all necessary steps to complete the permit process with the City of Mountain View, including retention of Krone Design Inc, to complete the required architectural plans. Further, the BOD approved the hiring of contractors to build the tenant improvements required for our occupancy. The Committee has made tentative cost projections with the help of Krone Design and will keep the Board informed as more information is received.

## Introducing a New Mentoring Experience

Valerie Baldwin has announced a mentoring program called "Play for Fun and Learn" to be held on two Saturdays a month beginning on March 12 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. It will start with a half hour lecture on one of Barbara Seagram's "25 Conventions You Should Know." After the presentation, participants will gather in tables of four mentees and one mentor. The players bid and play eight preset hands. Next, the mentor along with a script edited by an expert bridge player, reviews the bids, play of the hand and defense. Participants should have fewer than 150 masterpoints and will need to make a reservation by sending an email to Unit503mentor@gmail.com. The message should include the number of your masterpoints and name(s) of anyone with whom you would like to sit. The fee per session will be five dollars for members and eight dollars for non-members. For further information contact Valerie Baldwin at (650) 851-7810.

**2/1 Class** - Come to the JCC each Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 from Jan 24 through Mar 21. For info, contact John Schwartz at 650-324-2424 or [jrpdy@yahoo.com](mailto:jrpdy@yahoo.com).

**Coincidence** - Mary Van Tamelen must be clairvoyant. Four days before the Unit announced that Margot Livenspargar had won the Sportsmanship award, Mary sent the editors Margot's profile. See page 5.

**Sunshine/Name Badges** - Even though Phyllis Gaffney is no longer on the Board, she is still the Sunshine guru and asks that you contact her if you know of someone who needs a little sunshine from the Unit. She will continue to send good thoughts from all of us at the Bridge Center. She will also continue to order name badges. Find Phyllis at [2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net](mailto:2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net) or (408) 730-0654.

**Good work** - The most recent ACBL In-Out report shows the Unit has 918 members. The committee is well on the way of achieving its goal of 1,000 members.

**Mini McKenney News** - Polly Siegel is a cinch to win the national award for the 50-100 masterpoint strata to be announced in early February. Find the story of how she did it in the Unit column in the February *Forum*.

**Lectures** - February features Gene Simpson speaking on "Partnership Checklist" on Feb. 1 and Ron Karr on "How To Play the Odds as Declarer" on February 22.

**Big Games** - Albert Pugin and Marianne Moutoux had a 72.23% game on Nov. 23, Robin and Pat Chambers had a 71.13% game on Nov. 15 and Sherie Greenberg and Malcolm McLaughlin a 70.7% game on Dec. 6.

**Library** -The library has a new book "Knack Bridge for Everyone." It includes a step-by-step guide to rules, bidding and play of the hand. What makes this book different is its visual approach that includes 400 full-color photos. It is geared towards beginning and intermediate players.

**Missing Masterpoints** - If you think some of yours were lost, don't abandon hope. They can be found. Check with the director, he/she may have neglected to send the report or missed sending them to the ACBL.

**Coming Soon - an Updated Directory** The Palo Alto Members and Friends Directory is issued once a year in the spring and is given free to all Unit 503 members. Lori Spaeth plans to publish it in February.

## Unit News



## Appreciation

Carol Scott Zimmerman, the daughter of Caroline Macey, recently sent a donation to the Unit with this message: "My Mother, Caroline Macey, just loved the Bridge Club. She talked about the people and the games – so much I feel I know many of you. This is a donation in memory of my Mother and in recognition of the pleasure she derived from your company and friendship."

## Unit 503 Education Fund

Thank you to the 22 members who contributed \$2,528 to the Unit 503 Education fund last year. These monies will help the Unit continue the free lecture series and make modest purchases of books for our library.

One of the unmet Fund goals is to offer opportunities to Juniors to learn the game of bridge. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Alan Cummings at [alan.cummings@stanford.edu](mailto:alan.cummings@stanford.edu). This is an opportunity let our young people learn a game that is a lifetime activity, as well as a marvelous social network. The website below describes the programs sponsored by the ACBL. [www.acbl.org/teachers/schoolBridge.html](http://www.acbl.org/teachers/schoolBridge.html)

## New Board Secretary

Unit President, Sue Griswold, reports that our Board Secretary, Terry Lancaster, has resigned from the Board. He was a real asset to the Unit during his year on the Board, not only through his duties as Secretary (and fast minutes!), but also as a resource to the Building Committee in their search for a new Center. His work is much appreciated.

Sue Barkley has graciously agreed to take over the secretarial duties for the balance of the year.

## And the Trophy Goes to. . .

The Unit awards the Winners Trophy for the most masterpoints earned in the Unit games. Does any Unit member remember who received the Winners Trophy for 1991? The winner for 2010, Don Rothschild, does because he has done it again. Non-Life Master Polly Siegel with a third place finish outscored almost all the Life Masters on the list. Second among the Non-Life Masters was Richard Recht with 7.94 points. The final point totals were: Don Rothschild-18.61, Tahir Gokcen-15.58, Polly Siegel-14.33, Sherie Greenberg-14.33, Betsy Steele-10.84, Jim O'Neil-10.52, Chris Lazarovici-9.42, Carol Brigham-9.19, Margery Yates-9.15, Franklin Gonzalez-8.92.



## JOIN THE ACBL!

(Your path to a lifetime of fun and learning.)

We invite you to consider joining the ACBL (American Contract Bridge League). Here are some of the reasons that could benefit you:

- The monthly Bridge Bulletin (copy enclosed) is simply the best magazine for players at all levels. It is available exclusively as a membership benefit.
- The monthly Contract Bridge Forum (copy enclosed) from our District 21
- Recognition for masterpoint achievement
- ACBL membership rates for tournament games
- Information about bridge clubs and tournaments throughout the U.S.
- ACBL Tournaments on the free program Bridge Base Online (BBO)
- Most valuable: **Local Club games every day**, usually more than one

As of January 1, 2011, a first year ACBL membership is only \$28. If you also join our Palo Alto Unit 503 as a new ACBL member, you will receive one "Free Play" worth \$8 at any Unit 503 game, thus reducing your membership cost to \$20!

The ACBL will automatically assign you to Unit 503 if you reside in Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Stanford, Atherton or East Palo Alto. If you live elsewhere but wish to be in Unit 503, you must make that request on your application form. If you sign up on-line, put your request in the comments section. If you use the enclosed application, write your request in large letters.

In addition to the Bridge Bulletin magazine and Forum newsletter, we have enclosed:

- ACBL Instant Member Application form (or click Join at [www.ACBL.org](http://www.ACBL.org))
- ACBL's "Your Best Partner in Bridge" brochure
- ACBL's "The Exciting World of Bridge" brochure
- Bridge Base software: Learn to Play Bridge I and II
- Testimonials from ACBL members including ones from Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and even Snoopy
- A copy of our Unit 503 monthly newsletter the "Kibitzer"
- A list of all Unit 503 beginner games with pertinent information

We welcome you to the bridge world and hope you enjoy the game as much as our 900+ members. You can find us at [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com).

**Palo Alto Bridge  
ACBL Unit 503  
Membership Committee**

## Intermediate II Bridge Classes

at the Bridge Center

February 3 through April 28

From 7:00—9:30 p.m.

Instructors:

Frank Smoot, Lori Spaeth,  
Sue Johnston

Sign up on line:

[www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com)

### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Jennifer Ewald, Terri Goldman, Annie Green, Marguerite Hays, Judith Paulus, Barbara Reid, Frances Roth, Marian Sagan, Christine Talbott, Brendon Vining, Joan Buell, Christine Bunz, Elva Carle, Michael Chin, Robert Reis and Joe Tang.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 1, at 3:45 p.m.  
Bridge Center

### Sympathy

The Unit Board and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Pat McFerren, who recently passed away. Pat, a long time supporter of the Unit who played almost solely in evening games, served on the Board and was Unit President in 2002. She had many regular bridge partners, but would generously also play with anyone who wanted a game. The January *Kibitzer* contained a long overdue bio of this competent and delightful woman; she will be greatly missed.

Condolences also go to Frances Miller's family and many friends. Every day-time player is familiar with this witty 93-year old who loved to borrow jewelry because she was "going to a wedding." Frances died in her sleep a few days before the *Kibitzer* went to print.

Unit President Sue Griswold has made the committee appointments listed below. If any other member would like to join the team, please contact Sue, because the Unit always needs more members taking an interest in Unit activities.

Art Coordinator	Lu Isaacs	Library	Valerie Baldwin, Fran Bennett
Bridge Center Mgr.	John Mattis	Membership	Lu Isaacs
Club Owner Liaison	John Mattis	Mentor Program	Valerie Baldwin
Computer Support	Will Watson, Alan Templeton	Phone Directory	Lori Spaeth
Conduct/Ethics	Eric Mayefsky	Photographer	Roy Robinson
District 21 Rep	David Crosley, Allen Wolman	Publicity-Unit Gms	Elinor Tanck
District 21 Forum	Marian Kelly	Recorder	Eric Mayefsky
Education	Lori Spaeth, Alan Cummings	Sunshine	Phyllis Gaffney
Election	Susana Krulevitch	Supplies	Dave Wheeler
Electronic Contact	Elinor Tanck	Trophies	David Crosley
Firecracker	Steve Barasch, Alan Wolman	Unit Games	Keith Burnett
Inter/New. Liaison	Lori Spaeth, Valerie Baldwin	Web Site	Alan Templeton
Kibitzer Editors	Elinor Tanck, Marian Kelly		





Forty-two different addresses. That’s how many our member and the EZ Game co-director, Margot Livenspargar, has had. When you’re the daughter of an Army Brigadier General and then the wife of an Air Force pilot, that’s what happens. You live in Wisconsin, Benicia, Miami, Germany, Okinawa and Apple Valley, to name a few places. Finally, visiting an old high school teacher, you hit upon Sunnyvale; you find good bridge, good medical care, a hairdresser, and a dentist—and here you’ve been for 3 1/2 years.

**All About  
Margot  
Livenspargar**  
By Mary Van Tamelen

Margot graduated from Kubasaki High School in Okinawa, and before she went off to college, her father insisted she learn bridge—as well as typing and stenography—and he had his secretary teach her. Then she attended Northwestern University, where the Air Force pilot “swept me off my feet.”

They kept up the peripatetic life style through the 42 years of their marriage and the raising of a son and daughter; her son graduated from the same high school she graduated from in Okinawa. The family ended up living in Apple Valley, where they opened an irrigation supply store. She became its office manager and accountant, and then ran it on her own for a year and a half after her husband died—“just to prove I could.”

Back in 1977, she went to a computer show, saw her first computer, said, “I want one,” and had it working for her store within six months. And she’s been addicted to high technology ever since. She streams Netflix, keeps fit with Wii, and “just loves techy things.”

Her father’s secretary must have been a very good bridge teacher; Margot’s been a director for 35 years. She began directing in Okinawa while living there for the third time, and kept it up in Apple Valley to ensure good bridge. And here she’s working with Marolyn Imaoke-Yancey, Missy Verson and John Williams on Fridays—with a “very happy group” of EZBridge players, keeping it friendly. “People are so interesting,” she says, “when you get beyond bridge.” Her pet peeve, and a very small one it is, is players writing down the contract before leading.

We’ll behave, and treat her very nicely—because we don’t want her moving to her forty-third address!

### Player Advancements

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

Sectional Master	50 MP	Wendy Benveniste, Andrew Dentai, Lorraine Godfrey, Brian Samuels, Elan Winkler
NABC Master	200 MP	Margaret Becker, Malcolm McLaughlin
Life Master	300 MP	Daniel Harting, Beverly Nuding

**Palo Alto Unit 503 Board**  
Sue Griswald, President  
Mike Atherton, Vice-President  
Beverly Nuding, Treasurer  
Sue Barklay, Secretary  
Steve Barasch, Valerie Baldwin,  
Keith Burnett, David Crosley, Lu Isaacs,  
John Mattis, Allen Wolman

*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/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/<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	

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sectional, Saturday, January 29 at Hart Middle School, Pleasanton
- 199er Swiss Teams, Monday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. at Bridge Center
- Club championship., Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Sectional, Thursday, Feb.10 at Bridge Center, Fresno
- Regional, Tuesday, Feb.15 at Marriott, Santa Clara
- Unit Stratified Open Pairs, Sunday, February 13 at 1: p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. at Bridge Center
- Club championship, Wed., Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC (sign-up required)
- Sectional, Saturday, Feb. 26 at Municipal Svs. Bldg., So. SF
- Firecracker...New Dates....Wednesday, July 13-Sunday, July 17.

### Clubs Closed

- Wednesday, February 16, Bridge 'n Brunch, Doubleton BC
- Thursday, February 17, Thursday Morning JCC BC
- Thursday, February 17, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- Friday, February 18, EZ Game
- Friday Morning BC
- Friday Night Barometer
- Saturday, February 19, One Club
- Sunday, February 20, Sunday Afternoon BC
- Monday, February 21 Bridge Mix

### Clubs Open

- Tuesday, February 9 Alpine BC at Noon, Bridge Center
- Tuesday Afternoon BC at Noon, Unity Church,
- Tuesday at 7 p.m., Just for Fun . Bridge Center
- Wednesday, February 10 Wed. Aft. 49er at 1 p.m., Unity Church
- Monday, February 21 at 11 a.m., Monday Morning JCC

### 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

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)**

**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)